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The Province of Alberta



IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRIES ACT

AND IN THE MATTER OF O/C 290/73, AN INQUIRY
INTO THE NEW TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE

N. R. CRUMP, Esq.,

Chief Commissioner

T. H. PATCHING, Esq.,

Commissioner

DAVID GRAHAM, Esq.

Commissioner

W. A. Stevenson, Esq.,

Commission Counsel

D. O. Sabey, Esq., Q.C., and
J. G. Martland, Esq.

For McIntyre Porcupine
Mines Ltd.

DATE: June 14 & 15, 1973

HELD AT: Grande Cache, Alberta.

VOLUME II

(Pages 210 - 442)

Supreme Court Reporters

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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Gerald M. Farmer - Stevenson Ex.

PROCEEDINGS before The Board of
Commissioners at Council Chamber,
Town of Grande Cache, Province of
Alberta, commencing at 9:30 a.m.,
Thursday, June 14th, A.D. 1973.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Stevenson, have you any
further questions of Mr. Farmer?

MR. STEVENSON: Yes, sir, there are a couple of
items.

MR. CRUMP: Would you take the stand, please,
Mr. Farmer.

GERALD M. FARMER, recalled on his former oath, examined by
Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Farmer, you acknowledge that you are still under
oath before this hearing?

A Yes.

Q And, Mr. Farmer, in the brief that was presented by Mr.
Cooke yesterday there was a mention of a lack of confidence
in management, could you comment on that further from the
point of view of concern about materials?

A Yes, I can comment on that. There has been quite a large
amount of material lost underground due to lack of efficiency
I believe, myself. There was a roof bolt that was left in
No. 5 mine, buried, and is lost now and won't be ever got
out by the looks of things; I believe the price of one these
is about \$30,000.00, around thirty thousand.

At the present time in the mine,
in No. 2 mine, I don't know about No. 5, I am concerned with

Gerald M. Farmer - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) No. 2, there were tension ends of conveyors, drive heads of conveyors and structure still in the mine, and No. 5 mine, the long wall equipment was purchased from Fletcher and Stewart, I believe they left the full face of hydraulic chocks in there and I think they are valued at three-quarters of a million dollars, or close to that amount.

There is equipment still on the surface that was brought in two years ago, or three and perhaps four years ago, four years, there are packing cases there with Westphalia Miners, unless they have been sold by the company in the last two or three months they must still be there and never been out of the packing case.

Q How did this effect the miners from the point of view we are talking about?

A Well we keep hearing about the cost of things and the cost of this and that, and the way the company is losing money, but the way they are leaving stuff in the mine, materials in the mine as they are ever likely to lose money.

Q In connection with this aspect of confidence was there some concern, some feeling about supervision or in the supervisory staff?

A Yes, supervisory, and before the layoff, in my honest opinion, I will use the old term, there were too many chiefs and not enough braves.

Q Can you put that into figures?

A I can't put that into figures. The layoff proves this by the layoff of 143 men, also the layoff of 62 supervisors,

Gerald M. Farmer - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) an average of two and a half men to one supervisor, and where I come from a supervisor has twenty and twenty-four men, not two and a half.

Q There was one other aspect of the matter that I think you can tell us something about with respect to the operation of the housing here. Do I understand that there was at an early stage some problem with rentals, back rentals?

A Yes there was, back in the early days, the first three months of my term here anyhow, from 1969 there was a period when the men had worked 21 days, we were on 21 and 7 at the time, had worked 21 days and it came to payday and every man's pay cheque read that we owed the company 70 or 80 dollars, they had taken the rest of our pay in lieu of rental or what have you and we had nothing at all to come.

Q To whom did you pay your rent?

A Through McIntyre, to McIntyre themselves and then straight through to Smoky River.

Q Who actually took the rent?

A McIntyre.

Q Who was the landlord?

A Smoky River was the landlord but the money went through McIntyre's books.

Q Were a number of miners renting houses at that time?

A Yes, I think we were all renting houses at that time. The contracts hadn't been made up for the mortgages.

Q And did the Union have a housing committee, or anything like that?

3-HA-4

Gerald M. Farmer - Stevenson Ex.

A We had a housing committee at one period which neither Smoky River Investments would recognize, or McIntyre would recognize either.

Q In what way?

A Well we had problems with redecorations and everything at that time, and we saw fit to form a housing committee, but after forming it we couldn't be recognized by either Smoky River or McIntyre and therefore we couldn't find out what the problems were, you know, sort the problems out.

Q Why wouldn't you be recognized by Smoky River?

A They just refused point-blank.

Q And why not by McIntyre in this capacity?

A Well McIntyre were turning us over to Smoky River, we were turned back from one to the other at that time.

Q Was there some problem with respect to redecoration and moving?

A Yes there was.

Q That affected the men?

A At that period, yes. I believe earlier on, and I hope I am correct in this statement, that when the hourly paid workmen wanted to move from one house to another they were charged a redecorating fee; this was a redecoration of house, you know, painting and what have you, but in my own case I left the house, I had only been in five or six weeks and found out that when the family arrived the house wasn't big enough to contain us and so I wanted a larger

3-HA-5

Gerald M. Farmer - Stevenson Ex.
- Sabey Ex.

A (Continued) house, but during that five week period I must have amassed quite a lot of redecorating because it amounted to \$275.00, and I found out later that supervision were changing over from one to the other and weren't having to pay this redecorating fee.

Q Did you pay the redecorating fee?

A Yes, I paid it.

MR. STEVENSON: Those are the only questions I have, thank you.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Sabey?

MR. SABEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Mr. Farmer, in point of fact Kilborn Engineering refused to do the redecorating because you weren't happy with the price, isn't that right?

A They did do the redecorating.

Q Didn't they write to the company and yourself and say that they cancelled the job because you complained about the high charge of \$270.00?

A I complained about the high charge but they still stuck me \$275.00.

Q And Kilborn is not a McIntyre Company, is it, that is an independent company?

A It is working for Smoky River, I would imagine.

Q You don't know that?

A I don't know that, no.

Q In point of fact it is an independent company, sir.

3-HA-6

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) And they advised the company that because you were so difficult to deal with that they would rather not do the job, but you say they ultimately did do it?

A They stuck me \$275.00, I don't know whether they completed the job or what they did with it.

Q All right. What were the wrong-doings that you accuse Kilborn of?

A I am accusing Smoky River.

Q No, Kilborn?

A Why Kilborn?

Q Well I don't know, sir, the letter from them says that you visited their office this afternoon, that is in March of 1970, and accused them of wrong-doings?

A No way.

Q You didn't do that?

A No way, unless it was Harry Abols; was he in charge of Kilborn?

Q H. Abols, A-b-o-l-s?

A Yes, I did visit Harry Abols and I asked him the reason why I was paying \$275.00 redecorating fee and supervision were paying nothing at all, and Harry Abols' answer to me was that it wanted redecorating and it would have to be redecorated.

Q Let me just read you what Mr. Abols says:

"Mr. G. Farmer visited our office this afternoon and accused us of wrong-doings, which we cannot accept. He was not interested in our explanations in what has transferred.

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued)

" Please --"

This is a letter to Mr. Roberts, Personnel Department,
McIntyre;

" Please advise all your people to deal personally
with your office. Our staff has been instructed that
no dealing with the home-owners be done by the
construction people, our job is strictly in the
construction of the houses."

A Well that is a case of turning one back from the other,
the same as I have just explained.

Q I see. Sir, the 62 supervisors that were laid off, are they
mine supervisors in the mine or are these staff people in
the office?

A These are staff people from all over the property.

Q Yes. The equipment that you referred to this morning on
the surface, is that -- by and large is that the equipment
that was taken out of the No. 5 mine, or ordered as the
long wall equipment?

A No, there was already materials lying on there before
No. 5 was finished.

Q Yes, yes, but the bulk of the equipment that is lying around
now was --

A There is quite a lot from No. 5.

Q Is the long wall equipment?

A From No. 2, not from No. 5.

3-11A-8

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q All right, I see. Now, sir, when the layoff transpired everybody wasn't laid off at the end of January, were they, they worked for some time after?

A They worked for so long, yes.

Q Yes, and they retrieved machinery from No. 5, didn't they?

A Yes.

Q And what machinery was that that they retrieved?

A They retrieved drive heads, tension ends, from No. 5.

Q But is that long wall equipment or is that continuous mining?

A No, that is the ordinary conveyor system.

Q Yes, so it would be, some of the material on the surface is the long wall equipment that would have been taken from No. 5 mine --

A No.

Q Oh it never did --

A No, No. 5 did start the long wall and the chocks are still in No. 5 mine now, today.

Q But some of the equipment was brought out?

A Yes, some of the equipment was brought out.

Q And the chocks were left because safety wouldn't permit them to bring those out, isn't that right?

A That could be.

Q Well now, let's be fair about it, Mr. Farmer, it could be; anything can be done, can't it?

A Yes.

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q Yes, but these were left in because of the safety considerations, weren't they?

A Yes, more than likely.

Q Now I just wanted to confirm one thing before we go on, Mr. Farmer. When you were hired it was after you had sought out McIntyre recruiters in England?

A Yes.

Q You had seen an ad for mechanics, is that right?

A Yes.

Q But you weren't a mechanic?

A No.

Q But you answered the ad anyway?

A Yes.

Q You had worked in Canada previously, sir?

A Yes, in 1956.

Q It is fair to say that you wanted to come back to Canada?

A Yes.

Q Now, sir, you have talked quite a bit about the long wall equipment; that was set up under the guidance of Mr. Gordon Cook, first Mine Manager, wasn't it?

A The Fletcher and Stewart Equipment, yes.

Q Yes, you met Mr. Cook when you were here?

A Yes.

Q He is also from England?

A Yes.

Q He is a graduate Mining Engineer?

A Yes.

3-HA-10

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q Had some considerable experience in England?

A Yes.

Q In long wall, before he came here?

A Yes.

Q Let me just read you, sir, what -- a publication from the Western Miner says, and see if you will agree:

"He graduated from the University of Sheffield with First Class Degree as a Bachelor of Engineering at the same time receiving the I.C.I. prize for the best mining paper of the year."

I don't know what that is, can you tell me, the I.C.I. prize?

A No, I couldn't tell you.

Q He won a National Coal Board scholarship, he was employed in the Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Midland Mines; in 1958 became Manager of the Selston Mine, Nottinghamshire?

A Yes.

Q Are you acquainted with that mine?

A Yes, I know where it is.

Q He was later the Manager for the Ornonde Mine in Derbyshire, do you know that mine?

A No.

Q In 1963 he was promoted to Group Manager in charge of four collieries in the No. 5 area of the Midlands Division; do you know where that is?

A I know where No. 5 area is, yes.

Q And in 1968 he was made Production Manager of the newly-formed

3-11A-11

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) South Nottinghamshire area of the National Coal Board.

A Yes, that is the same area that I was in.

Q He was Manager where the first successful Long Wall Face was operated in England, are you acquainted with that?

A I believe that was only one and that was at Beavercotes Collieries.

Q Well now, sir, it is fair to say that Mr. Cook had a fair experience with long wall, and Mr. Cook is the one who planned, set up and started the long wall operation here at Smoky River; it was not Mr. Meuller, is that right?

A He set up the long wall. Mr. Meuller didn't set up the long wall --

Q Right.

A -- I quite agree with you there.

Q But you feel that there was a mistake made in either the set-up or the operation of the No. 2, or of the long wall operation?

A Yes, I most certainly do.

Q Now, sir, in January of this year I think you indicated yesterday that you had suggested to Mr. Cook that in closing the No. 5 mine that you pillar back?

A Yes.

Q Do you understand that reference?

A Yes.

Q Now does that mean that you take out the coal along the

3-HA-12

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) passages as you retreat to the entrance?

A No, there were so many of the districts already out and they could have pulled back into the main entries, pillared into the main entries.

Q Yes, and that is what you are suggesting was that you pillar back to the main entries?

A Yes.

Q And what would that do to the mine as a mine, sir?

A I don't think it would affect it too much because the main entries would still be open for them to re-enter the mine.

Q So you could still get at the reserves of coal that were untouched behind where you had pillared back?

A In some of the districts, yes.

Q But not all of them?

A Not all of them, no.

Q I see. Sir, do you know if the Conservation Board would have permitted that type of procedure?

A I couldn't rightly tell you.

Q But you are aware that the Conservation Board did approve the present method of closing No. 5 mine?

A Yes, I am aware that the mine must be left open for re-entry as well.

Q Yes. And then No. 5 mine is presently available for further operation at a time when it may become economical?

A Yes sir.

3-HA-13

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q Now, sir, one other point about the January meetings; did you tell Mr. Fulton that before you would take this proposal of a continuous or seven-day work week to the workers that the company would have to agree to keep the whole 148 workers, not just part of them?

A No.

Q I see, well I am confused. Would you clarify that for me, please, what was it that you said to Mr. Fulton about his proposal of --

A On the seven-day week?

Q Yes?

A Well, I am almost sure that Mr. Fulton mentioned to us that he would like to see the mine on a seven-day week.

Q Yes?

A To recoup some of the losses from the No. 5 mine.

Q Now when we are talking about the seven-day week and the mine we are talking about No. 2 mine?

A Yes.

Q Yes, okay, thank you.

A And we asked if the 140 odd men could be employed, if they would be employed over the seven-day working week which he proposed, and Mr. Fulton said, no, the 140 odd men had to go.

Q Did he say that the full 148 men had to go or did you simply ask if they would employ the full 148 and he said, no? Now there is a difference there, Mr. Farmer, and that is

3-HA-14

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) what I am getting at.

A Yes, I know there is, yes, I believe he said the 140 odd would have to go.

Q All right, thank you very much. Now, sir, these layoffs didn't come that day or the next day?

A No, they came over a period of perhaps a month, five weeks.

Q Well in point of fact the last of the layoffs was on April 24th?

A Yes, could have been.

Q That is almost three months?

A Yes, it could have been.

Q That is almost the period of attrition that you are talking about, isn't it?

A Yes.

Q And that same time, there is one more point, at that same time Mr. Fulton did tell you that there would always be underground mining in No. 2?

A Yes.

Q And I think you have just indicated, in fact he told you he intended to increase that mining in No. 2?

A I believe he did, yes.

Q Sir, this in the brief, there is a reference to a so-called loophole on the housing contract, the ten year, or the provision that the company had the option to buy back the house if the employee left?

A I don't think I mentioned that in the brief at all?

3-HA-15

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q Well, it is mentioned, sir. You didn't mention that, sir, you are not acquainted with that?

A No, one of the other boys may be more acquainted with it than I.

Q All right. Now, sir, when you did come over, when you were hired, I presume you got the loan for the plane fare for you and your family?

A From immigration, yes.

Q And your family came over about a month after you did, sir?

A Probably, yes.

Q And so that you had an opportunity to look at the place before your family came over?

A Yes.

Q And your family would have stayed in the same residence that they had after you left but before they came over?

A Yes they did do, yes.

Q Did you get the \$1,000.00 re-settlement grant?

A Yes I did do.

Q And after you bought your house did you get the \$100.00 a month subsidy?

A Yes.

Q And I take it that you made no cash down payment on your house either?

A No.

Q And that is the subject of a forgivable loan to you?

A Yes.

3-HA-16

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q And the company paid the motel expenses while your family was in Edmonton?

A I don't believe so, no.

Q Did you put them into the company?

A They were stopped off my wages.

Q Are you sure of that, sir?

A Yes, I am sure of that, they stayed at the Pan American Motel.

Q And they were taken from your wages?

A Yes.

Q And you are sure of that?

A Yes.

Q And I take it, sir, that you have received all the benefits that the company indicated to you?

A I have, yes.

Q And you have received your salary since you got here, you have had a continuous salary?

A Yes.

Q You have never been laid off?

A I was fired away back in 1970.

Q What was that, sir?

A I was fired along with the rest of the Union Executive, 13 members.

Q What was that for?

A It was what they called a two-day strike, but in actual fact we tried to get the men back to work over those two

3-HA-17

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

A (Continued) days but we were eventually fired for it in any case.

Q You were president of the Union at that time?

A No, I was only the inside guard at that time.

Q I see, and how long were you fired for?

A Eight days.

Q You were re-instated?

A Yes.

Q How did the firing come about?

A It came about over the firing of two of our members, I believe it was, George Stubbard and someone named McQueen.

Q And did the men go out on strike, the rest of the men?

A They walked off for two days.

Q And you were fired because the other men had gone off?

A Yes.

Q Did you engage in picketing or --

A No.

Q Did this become a matter of a court action?

A It did, yes, we had injunctions filed against us.

Q You had an injunction filed against you?

A Yes.

Q From the Supreme Court of Alberta?

A Yes.

Q Enjoining you from picketing or striking?

A Yes.

Q I presume as a Union Officer enjoining you against counselling

3-HA-18

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) you to picket or strike or slow down?

A Well a Union man's job is not to counsel anybody to picket or strike.

Q So you were fired after the injunction was issued?

A No, the injunction was issued after.

Q I see, and the company then re-instated you?

A Yes.

Q Or re-hired you?

A Yes.

Q And when was that, sir?

A Way back in 1970.

Q And did you lose your seniority?

A Yes.

Q You did?

A Yes, nine months.

Q And were there any other aspects of it, did the company seek damages from you for the --

A No, they didn't seek damages, they could have done but they --

Q They didn't?

A No, eventually they didn't.

Q Thank you, I appreciate your honesty and frankness, Mr.

Farmer. So with that one exception, Mr. Farmer, you have had continuous employment?

A Yes, excepting for hospitalization.

Q Yes, I see. Now, sir, if I may return very briefly to the matter of the safety that you have discussed. I believe you

3-HA-19

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) said yesterday that you had the feeling that things have improved or show signs of improving?

A Yes.

Q And this did you tie to the new management?

A I believe so, yes. I believe new management is doing their utmost to make it a safe mine.

Q Sir, most of the examples that you cited did occur some time ago I take it?

A Oh yes.

Q Mr. Farmer, is there -- you have a Safety Committee, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q And is there some procedure whereby -- well, what is the function of that Committee, just tell me what their function is?

A Well the function of the Committee is to examine the mines, point out the unsafe areas while they are at it and try get them rectified.

Q The Safety Committee is made up of the workmen, isn't it?

A Yes.

Q And does it receive complaints or comments or observations from individual workmen about these type of examples?

A Yes it does.

Q And what does the Committee then do about it?

A The Committee approaches management with these problems.

Q And it is worked out between the Committee or the Union and Management?

3-HA-20

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

A Yes.

Q And these instances that you have referred to would have been reported to that Committee, or should have been reported?

A Yes, more than likely, yes.

Q But if they weren't they certainly should have been, or could have been?

A Yes.

Q That is the machinery set up for that?

A Yes.

Q And it is designed to take care of that sort of thing so that the individual workman isn't put on the spot, as it were?

A Yes, that is how it should work.

Q Now, does that Committee keep records?

A Yes.

Q And those records then would be available to this Commission?

A Yes, should be.

Q The Provincial Mining Inspectors would also keep records, wouldn't they, they would inspect periodically?

A Yes, monthly.

Q Pardon?

A More than likely once a month.

Q And those records would be available?

A Yes.

Q Do you know if the instances that you talked about yesterday

3-HA-21

Gerald M. Farmer - Sabey Ex.

Q (Continued) were reported to the Committee, the Safety Committee?

A Yes, I would believe so.

Q Fine. Now, Mr. Farmer, neither you nor I mean to suggest that there aren't safety considerations all the time, even though things appear to be improving?

A Yes, at the present time that is the case as well.

Q There are breaches even today perhaps, or yesterday?

A Yes.

Q In point of fact you were involved in one several months ago?

A Yes.

Q You were reprimanded by the Provincial Inspector?

A I was, yes.

Q And I think in fairness you said yesterday that a lot of it is the workmen as much as the management?

A Could be, could possibly be.

MR. SABEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Farmer.

MR. CRUMP: Any re-examination, Mr. Stevenson?

MR. STEVENSON: No, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you very much, Mr. Farmer
for coming. You may stand down.

A Thank you.

(Witness Retires.)

3-HA-22

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

ARTHUR BRADBURY, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Bradbury, you are employed here by McIntyre Porcupine as a miner?

A Yes.

Q And when did you commence that employment, when did you come to the site?

A I believe it was November the 25th or 27th, 1969 when I landed in Edmonton.

Q And where had you been working before you were recruited? You were recruited or you took your employment in England?

A Yes.

Q And you had been working in England?

A Yes.

Q In underground mining?

A Yes.

Q And as of the time that you were recruited how long had you been working in underground mining?

A Approximately eleven years.

Q And you now have 14 years mining experience?

A Yes.

Q How old are you?

A 31.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Bradbury, would you please mind speaking up more clearly.

A Yes.

Q MR. STEVENSON: How old are you, Mr. Bradbury?

A 31.

Q And did you have experience in long wall mining?

A Yes, about every type of experience in long wall that you did do in the mines I worked at.

Q And had you been involved in various aspects of mining, various facets of mining during your eleven years in England?

A Yes, as well as being trained in about every aspect of mining that was going on in that area.

Q And is that an area that was working some long wall mining?

A About every face that I worked at was long wall.

Q And where did you first come in contact with McIntyre Porcupine, or representatives of McIntyre Porcupine?

A I first saw the advertisement in one of the papers. Ged Farmer informed me of one or two talks that he had had with Gordon Cook and further to that I wrote off for an application form.

Q And who did you contact?

A Mr. Keith Looms, I believe it was, Fletcher and Stewart representative in England.

Q I understand, Mr. Bradbury, that Fletcher and Stewart acted on behalf of McIntyre Porcupine in connection with some recruiting?

A Yes.

Q And it was this gentlemen representing that company that you got in touch with?

A Yes.

Q And did you have an interview?

A Yes.

3-HA-24

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q One or more?

A I just had the one.

Q And where was that?

A Derby.

Q During the course of that interview was there any discussion, or any questions raised by you with respect to the employment prospects, as to the term of employment that you might expect?

A Yes, I asked what the long term prospects were and the answer I received was, well we have got just about the largest quantity of volatile coal that we now have in the world. We have a contract with Japan now for 15 years; we are open to sign subsequent contracts, plus go to other places as this coal is very much in demand.

Q And at your interview was there any discussion about the method of mining?

A Yes, he informed me that at present it was just on development work, that they would be going to long wall and that they were in fact supplying long wall equipment to McIntyre.

Q Was there a discussion of the type of accommodation that was available here?

A Yes, and we were sent pictures of about four houses, which if I remember correctly the figures were on the housing picture, or accompanying them, was from 18 to \$21,000.00.

Q And do you have that material now?

A I am afraid not, no.

3-HA-25

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q What was the housing price when you got there?

A I believe it went from \$21,000.00 to 26, to the highest price.

Q Was there also discussion of a resettlement grant?

A Yes, a thousand dollar resettlement grant.

Q And you got your thousand dollars resettlement grant?

A Yes.

Q And you were satisfied with the way it was handled?

A Yes, very.

Q Did you come to Canada as arranged at that interview or did you come to Canada, was there some change in your plans?

A Well Mr. Looms asked me when would I be willing to come and I told him that I would prefer to come after Christmas. I later received a letter that work was going along better than what was previously anticipated. The long walls would be ready much sooner and could I come before Christmas, so then I came in November.

Q Did you have a family?

A Yes, wife and two children.

Q Did they come over?

A The wife and two children followed about eight weeks after.

Q And did you go ahead with the long wall operation when you got here?

A When I got here, as far as I could see, it was many months away. I believe it was possibly as much as a year after

3-HA-26

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) before it started, they started to install the long wall.

Q But you worked?

A Oh yes, I worked.

Q And you were on wages from the time you got here, there was no problem in that regard?

A No problem.

Q Now was there any discussion, or comment, advice given to you with respect to the cost of housing here that concerned you, or the cost of utilities or services?

A Yes, as regards utilities, if I remember correctly, there was figures given of 30 to \$40.00, and I believe it was heat, water and electricity; this were the approximate figures.

Q And was that information accurate when you got here or was there some problem with respect to it?

A Well at the present time in winter my gas bill alone is in between 30 and \$40.00.

Q Has this given you any cause for concern in respect to what was told you in England, or are you prepared to accept that?

A Well I feel that I don't like it, it is far too much, but what can I do about it?

Q What was it told to you in England was essentially in the way of an estimate?

A Yes.

Q Now I understand that you are a member, or are the Chairman of the Safety Committee in this unit?

3-HA-27

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A Yes.

Q And is there one Safety Committee for the entire mine operation?

A No, there are basically two men in each department of the actual mine site and I believe about five men at the strip mine.

Q And do they form one committee?

A No, the separate committees do occasionally get together on a problem.

Q And what area is your committee concerned with?

A Well, the committee that I serve on, I did serve with the Prep Plant, underground mines 5 and 2, and also surface.

Q And the Committee that you presently chair, what does it deal with?

A The same thing as No. 5.

Q And how long have you been a member of the Safety Committee?

A Approximately since 1970, late 1970.

Q Do the men come to you with complaints, is that the idea?

A The men should by rights go to the immediate supervisor with any complaints but on occasion this does happen that they come direct.

Q What is the purpose of the Committee?

A Well, the Committee, as I see it, is advisory capacity, and if we see anything that we don't like on the safety inspections we record that and send a copy to the Mines Inspector and also anything that crops up in between, any problems or anything, we go into the office and try and sort

A (Continued) these out with management.

Q Do you keep records?

A I think it is more or less individual records that have been kept.

Q That is by individual members of the Committee?

A Yes. When we have done a mine inspection we receive an individual copy, I am not saying that they have all got all the copies, I know myself that I haven't, but this is the way it is in practice.

Q The Safety Committee itself doesn't keep minutes or records?

A It keeps some on some problems.

Q Now yesterday we were told that there was a lack of confidence in management with respect to safety procedures and we were given some evidence with respect to it. Is there some different emphasis on safety in this mine as compared with your experience in the United Kingdom?

A Well basically speaking the problems, most of them, that crop up at this mine you could never experience in the United Kingdom. In particular with cables, a good example; if a cable got a slight cut on it in the U.K. that machine was down and that cable was changed. In practice here what did happen prior to October was that that cable could be taped up perhaps five or six times, as Mr. Kubin witnessed on his inspection in the mine.

Q You are referring to one of the mine inspectors?

A Acting Director of Mines, Mr. Kubin.

3-HA-29

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q Did he come out in October?

A Yes.

Q And why do you say that these are problems that wouldn't be encountered in the U.K., because of different mining conditions?

A To a certain extent, but I think to be quite honest that basic safety format is more complied with and more enforced in regards that I think here it has been my experience that safety at times has tended to take a second seat to production.

Q And would you agree with the statement made earlier that safety is the responsibility of both the men and management?

A Definitely, everybody.

Q And that the men sometimes fall down as well?

A Definitely.

Q Now you mentioned cables as being an example of a problem that has persisted, is that now no longer a problem?

A At this time I think myself the greater, larger proportion of the problem has been solved by vulcanizing equipment that the mine has got, and they have permission for this, but my own personal opinion is that once a cable is damaged it should go out of the mine for repairs.

Q Tell me this, Mr. Bradbury, there was some evidence yesterday that there had been an improvement with respect to these general safety problems in the last few months, would you agree with that?

3-11A-30

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A In a lot of respects, yes, in a few respects there is still some areas that I would like to see improved, and I think that this will always be so. There will always be somewhere in safety that there is room for improvement.

Q Is the management receptive to your Committee's complaints now?

A The present management?

Q Yes?

A At this time they accept what we say. It is a little bit slower perhaps being done than what I would like to see it personally but I think we have also got to understand that from one point of view that it is a matter of catching up on a lot of back work that should have been done a long while ago.

Q I gather, Mr. Bradbury, that one of the problems that you have been encountering in mining operations here has been what a layman would describe as falls?

A Yes.

Q And this has given rise to problems, I gather, in the area of roof support, is that right?

A Yes, particularly in No. 5 mine,

Q What kind of problems in No. 5 mine?

A Well I can name one or two occasions where in particular an instance in No. 5 mine where the roof collapsed for about a hundred feet, seventy feet to a hundred feet, and about, I believe it was about 12 feet thick.

3-HA-31

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q What method of roof support was used primarily in that mine?

A Roof bolts.

Q And I take it that roof bolts, by roof bolts you turn the roof into a girder?

A This is the basic formula, as I understand it.

Q By bolting the strata together, if I am using the correct language?

A Yes.

Q And was there concern about this method expressed to the Safety Committee or miners, as far as you know?

A Yes, I myself expressed it to Bill Murray that particularly in number 5 mine you have a lot of slips, what we call slips, where you get one roof that will suddenly climb up and another false, like there can be a false roof come in on the same level as what that roof previously had been and I maintain that where this happened, and I still maintain this now, that so many bolts can be in the true roof and so many in the false piece where it can in fact already be separated from the main portion and I felt that a large proportion of falls in that mine, of which I believe there was a hell of a lot of junctions collapsed, and falls all over the place, this was the cause of them.

Q Did some of the deaths that occurred in this mine occur in falls, in this operation?

A Well there was two occurred by falls before, prior to me

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) coming to Canada but since then there has also been the case of Floyd D. Rosenkrans; that was a fall that buried a miner and everything. The last one was Joe Morrow, he got killed by a fall where the rock on the top of the mine I should estimate would be about eight to ten feet thick, and there was Roy Fiddler where a piece did in fact come out between the roof bolts, but this was just a slab piece, and you couldn't really class it as a fall, it was an isolated piece, but the big falls, there have been quite a few and there were another two men killed by them.

Q Yes, something was made in the brief that was submitted yesterday by Mr. Cook of the number of deaths in the mine and with the exception of one were those deaths all as a result of falls, or this slab coming down?

A I believe the first death, I believe it was the first one because it was prior to me coming here, was caused by coal peeling off the face and pinning a man to the machine.

Q What alternative is there to roof bolting?

A Well you can take one or two alternatives. In, I believe it is Nova Scotia, from what I understand, and as a matter of fact in the U.K. they use ring arches, steel ring arches, this is a good help in roof control, and in the particular areas. The area most commonly that you could use here would be I suppose, booming, what we call booming, setting a collar, the steel collar against the roof, or the wooden timber, lengthways, to support your roof and perhaps lagging over the

A (Continued) top and then setting legs under to support it.

Q So this would give additional support?

A Yes, but apart from the obvious thing that I think myself in my experience that if roof wants to come there is very little you can do, but from the warning aspect --

Q From the warning aspect?

A Yes, as regards the timbers creaking, cracking, I think this serves a good purpose.

Q So that is an additional advantage of the different method of roof support?

A Yes.

Q And you tell me that this has been discussed with Mr. Murray?

A Yes.

Q And what was his response?

A His response as concerns No. 5 mine was that it wasn't putting a price on a man's life but if you have got to boom where these slips were and that that you might as well shut the mine down.

Q From an economic point of view?

A Yes.

Q Let me just go back for a moment. We have heard some evidence about a work stoppage last October?

A Yes.

Q And we have heard it suggested that that arose out of a particular incident involving one miner?

A Yes.

3-HA-34

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q What do you say about that?

A I disagree entirely. Here is a document from a management discussion course and even in this document there is things, and I think that this will illustrate why in a lot of cases the Safety Committee don't get to know a lot of what happens in the mine. Part (a) is just guards missing on the return box end. Part (b) to my mind is the one. If a man refuses to do an unsafe job he is given a dirtier job as punishment. This was what the men put forward at that meeting.

Q Was this long before October?

A This was 1970, August.

Q Had there been a continuing series of problems?

A Yes.

Q Before and after 1970?

A Oh yes.

Q Leading up to October?

A I should say it was a chain of events that eventually somewhere the link has got to break, and it did in October. What caused that to break then, it could have happened earlier, it could have happened later, but it had to happen at this mine.

Q You don't think that that was -- or do you think it was retaliation for the management's attitude toward this one miner?

A No, I think if we go back into that area that the man was back at work when the men said, this is not over him, this

3-11A-35

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) was given at the Union meeting, that particular incident is closed, but now we make a stand and we try and make a safe mine.

Q And after the work stoppage what happened, was there an inspection, investigation?

A We met with management and we had quite a session, a couple of sessions with them that I can remember and then we met John Shaw and we asked him if in his opinion was the mine safe, and he said, yes. We disagreed with this entirely and Mr. Kubin came in, acting Director of Mines, and subsequently he closed No. 5 mine to production until it had been re-timbered in a satisfactory manner.

Q Mr. Kubin was brought in, who was Mr. Shaw?

A Mr. Shaw, he is the Inspector, District Inspector, I believe, and Mr. Kubin was the top man.

Q Mr. Kubin was his superior, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Now, Mr. Bradbury, had there been an earlier incident of some concern or some seriousness in connection with Mr. Buckley?

A Yes, there was. This particular incident was where the fire boss had put the Bachrach Methane Detector in the vent tube so that he could mine in higher percentages of gas than allowed.

At this time we contacted Mr.

Bill Murray, we had quite a bit to say on this, and we asked him what he was going to do about this incident and then he

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) informed us that Mr. Buckley would be at work as normal, and we stressed that we felt that until -- whether it was true or not, this was just an allegation at the time, that he should be kept away from the mine, at least the underground part of the mine, until this had been cleared.

Mr. Murray said, no way, he is going in the mine on his normal job.

Q Yes?

A Subsequently we refused to work under that man until the case had been taken care of, and it was later brought to Court and I believe he was fined 40 or \$50.00.

Q So there was a threatened work stoppage at that point, could you tell me when that was?

A Approximately I should say around about the August time of last year.

Q A few months prior to the October thing that we heard about?

A Yes.

Q Mr. Bradbury, were you present when there was a discussion with Mr. Fulton or Mr. Richardson of McIntyre in connection with the proposed layoff?

A Yes.

Q And who from the company was present at this discussion, as you remember it?

A As I remember there was Mr. Fulton, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Murray, I am not certain whether Mr. Nelson was there.

Q And do you know whether this was the first, second or third

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Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q (Continued) meeting with the Union following the notice of the layoff?

A I believe it was the third one, it was, I believe that the -- it was the weekend, I believe it was a Saturday morning.

Q Had you not been present at the earlier discussions?

A No, I had been off work sick.

Q And who was present from the Union?

A Mr. Ged Farmer, I believe Neil Royal and Phil Oakes, Al Neary and myself.

Q And was there then a discussion about the possibility of operating the mine seven days a week?

A Yes.

Q Who raised that?

A Oh I think Mr. Fulton was under the impression that this was going to be so but we pointed out that subject to the contract this was not the case, we had a 5 and 2 contract, so subsequently we had been instructed by the men to inquire, would this effect any more jobs being kept, or any more layoff; so we asked him about this 5 and 2, and we said, well we feel we want to stay on 5 and 2, would any more men be kept on, and he said -- I believe Mr. Richardson actually answered it and he said, no.

I think the question at that time was put to him, well, on the 7 and 2 system you would be keeping approximately about forty men more than on the 5 and 2, so how come the job level? We naturally thought it

3-HA-38

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) would go from 140 to approximately 180; and he said at this time, he says, no we will absorb the other men, he says, plus there is work for some in No. 5 mine salvaging, etc., and he says, we hope to start developing it pretty soon, and we think we can absorb this number of men.

Q Now the discussion that took place in your presence on what you think was a Saturday morning?

A Yes.

Q Let's get to that one. There had previously been a meeting with the membership?

A Yes.

Q And at that meeting there had been some discussion of the prospect of a seven day operation?

A Yes.

Q And do I take it that the membership's attitude was that they could do that if there was no layoff?

A No, this was not actually the attitude. The attitude was that, we don't want 5 and 2, we fought against it -- sorry, we don't want 7 and 2, we fought against this, but we are prepared to consider it if it would mean more employment for fellow workers; I think that was the basic attitude at that meeting that we had.

Q So that when you met on the Saturday morning there was a suggestion that the mine go to 7 days?

A Yes.

Q And was this raised by Mr. Fulton or Mr. Richardson?

3-HA-39

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

A I believe it was raised by both of them.

Q What was the Union's position at that point then?

A Well once we were certain that there was no more jobs involved either for lessening the layoff or hiring the number laid off there was just no point in it and I think we reported that the men would work weekends but they would expect time and a half the same as the contract.

Q If it was the same work force they would expect the additional premiums?

A Yes, we would gain nothing from it.

Q Now was it clear to you that their concern was, will that preserve the 148 jobs, or the 148 men's work, which was it?

A As far as our concern it was a matter of could we save any men's jobs, not necessarily 148. My point of view with it was could it save 40 men, you know.

Q And what was the answer to that?

A No, the figure was set, 148 men must go.

Q And that was clear to you that morning, or that day?

A Yes.

Q And these other movements would be, or other proposals would simply keep the existing work force employed?

A Yes.

Q Is that right?

A Yes.

MR. STEVENSON: Those are all the questions I have, Mr. Bradbury, thank you.

Arthur Bradbury - Martland Ex.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Sabey.

MR. SABEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just

one moment, please.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Martland.

MR. MARTLAND CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q I have just one or two questions. Mr. Bradbury, the Safety Committee on which you were serving would do an inspection of the mine from time to time, wouldn't it?

A Yes.

Q Wouldn't that be on a monthly basis?

A Yes.

Q And there would be records, would they not, from the results of those inspections each month?

A Yes.

Q And am I right in saying that a copy of that inspection goes to the Provincial District Inspector?

A Yes.

Q And also a copy to the company?

A Yes.

Q And wouldn't those records show that up to and including the last report before the stoppage in October that the Safety Committee on which you served felt the mines were safe?

A When you say the mines were safe, I beg to differ with you there.

Q Well let's put it this way, outside of the usual incidents

Q (Continued) that are reported from time to time, items which should be corrected, there was not a sufficient condition that you were suggesting before October, 1972, that the mine should be shut?

A No, but the October situation was also called for on the practices that were going on in the mine at that time.

Q Well were those practices pointed out in the previous reports?

A Well pointing something out that a man knows and yet maybe is frightened to tell you because the same as it says in this article here, the victimization.

Q Well I understood that if there was a complaint from a worker of some unsafe condition that someone wanted to point out that one of the mechanisms was to report it to your Committee?

A The mechanism is to report it to the supervisor and if he gets no satisfaction from his immediate supervisor he should by rights go to the next in line. Only if he has -- if he can get no satisfaction at all then I agree that he should come to us, but to get a man to necessarily follow this method, and a lot of men, the same as I say, they find the victimization, they are on good terms even you might say at times with the officials they are working with and they don't want to get in any trouble.

It is a funny thing, you know,
you get a lot of these things that go by the board probably

A (Continued) every day of the week, which is the case up to that point, which you would never ordinarily hear about.

Q Well I am a little confused then about the mechanics of the Safety Committee because it was my understanding that if there was an unsafe condition that you -- the person reporting it would report it to both the supervisor and your safety committee?

A Not necessarily.

Q You are telling me that that is not correct?

A Not necessarily.

Q It could be done that way, couldn't it?

A It could be done that way, yes.

Q Well if the fellow was worried about the reprisals you have talked about why wouldn't he go to the Safety Committee, you were there and you could receive the report?

A Because you have got to remember one thing about this mine which varies from any other mine I have ever worked at, every mine I worked at previous to coming in here, every man was trained, fully trained for quite some period of time.

Here you had a situation where a man was fetched off a farm, off welfare even, and after probably -- at first there was no Government courses but then they installed Government courses and after eight weeks they would then go onto a job and some of these men had never had money as good as what they were getting here, they are getting a good rate of pay, and they are a bit wary of losing

A (Continued) their job or being shifted to a job at a low rate of pay, at that time this was the feeling of the men.

I think subsequently that when October did come the statements that were taken at that time verified the very thing I am on about because we did get the statements, the substantial matter, and they proved everything, and I can produce statements if you want to this day.

Q I still don't understand why the Safety Committee couldn't have been more effective; if there was a problem here wasn't it the duty of your Safety Committee to do something about it?

A The Safety Committee, and I will be the first to say it, is only as effective as your men and your management allow it to be.

Q Well, perhaps you could explain that?

A I think I have explained it. If men have not that fear of being victimized, intimidated, then they will come forward with complaints. If the management intend, and to illustrate this point I can go to a grievance that as far as we are concerned it was settled in the book, this idea, and yet still after the October issue we had the same thing where the general mine manager and the mine manager himself tried to conduce a man to work in an unsafe manner.

Q But the point is surely that if there is a complaint made

Q (Continued) by a worker about an unsafe condition and it is made to your Safety Committee --

A We will investigate.

Q You investigate it and you make a complaint to management?

A Yes, definitely.

Q And if you don't agree with what they do about it there is a grievance procedure to be followed, isn't there?

A There is a law to be followed if it contravenes it.

Q Well that is right, so how can you talk about intimidation if there is a procedure all set down that you can follow to see that these things are put right?

A To my honest belief you can set as many procedures down as what you want but if that man is fearful of following that procedure, for some reason, then that procedure is only as good as the amount of men that are unafraid to follow it.

Q In September, 1972, there would have been a report filed in the normal procedure by your Safety Committee?

A I should imagine so, yes.

Q And did that report contain any of the complaints you are raising today?

A I don't know, I honestly couldn't tell you.

Q Was there any suggestion that the mines should be closed from September?

A I have no idea.

Q Did the report say that they should be?

A I should imagine not, but --

3-HA-45

Arthur Bradbury - Martland Ex.
- Stevenson Ex.

Q So it was in October that all these things came about?

A It was in October that an accumulation of every safety factor regulation that had been broken in the last three years came to a head.

Q I think you indicated earlier that the District Inspector of the Province that had inspected the mine in October found the mine to be in a safe condition?

A Yes.

MR. MARTLAND: I have no further questions,
thank you.

A I also, excuse me, I also indicated that the Director of Mines didn't.

MR. MARTLAND: That is right.

MR. CRUMP: Any re-examination?

MR. STEVENSON: I think that it might be convenient if we marked this document which the witness produces, as an exhibit, it is one we can get copies of.

MR. CRUMP: We should have one because the source and date is not recorded in the transcript.

MR. STEVENSON: That is right, and I want to put that in, August 26th, 1970, it is a memorandum of inter-office correspondence.

MR. CRUMP: Yes.

MR. STEVENSON RE-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q And this was the result of a discussion with management?

A Yes.

3-IIA-46

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

Q Was this the first of its kind?

A If I remember it was the first full discussion where every man in the mine was involved.

Q Had there been another one?

A There has been from time to time what they call safety huddles in the mine with the immediate supervisors, yes.

Q May we mark that as an exhibit.

MEMORANDUM OF INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE DATED AUGUST 26, 1970
MARKED EXHIBIT 11.

MR. SABEY: I just raise a point too, sir.

There was a document yesterday that Mr. Farmer had and we tried to find that, it was not marked as an exhibit and we would like to see that document so we can see if we can find in our records the comparable document. I presume we will be getting copies of the exhibits?

MR. STEVENSON: I have custody of that document and we are trying to identify it so that my friend could -- indeed we were going to ask him to supply us with copies.

MR. SABEY: I will be happy to if I can find it.

MR. CRUMP: Find the original document.

MR. SABEY: Yes.

MR. STEVENSON: It is certainly available, sir.

MR. SABEY: You have a copy in the Commission's possession?

MR. STEVENSON: I have it, yes.

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Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.
- Patching Ex.

MR. CRUMP: That will be taken care of,
Mr. Sabey.

MR. SABEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am
sorry to interrupt.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching, there is a good
deal of technical evidence, have you any comments?

MR. PATCHING CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q I think in reply to a question a while ago you mentioned
safety conditions and practices being distinct?

A Yes.

Q Could you explain that a little more?

A Well a Safety Committee, the same as in the instance of
No. 2 mine in October we accompanied Mr. Kubin and conditions
in that mine was being run in a safe manner. Our part at
that time was that the practices in these mines made them
unsafe as well.

Q Now is it fair to say that a Safety Committee, or an
inspector, could examine conditions but probably would not
observe the practices?

A Correct, this is what I was actually to put across.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching, I can understand
Mr. Bradbury's viewpoint on this. Mr. Graham?

MR. GRAHAM: I have no questions.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you very much for coming,
Mr. Bradbury.

MR. STEVENSON: May Mr. Bradbury be excused from

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Barry Wilson - Stevenson Ex.

MR. STEVENSON: (Continued) attending further, sir?

MR. CRUMP: Yes.

(Witness Retires.)

BARRY WILSON, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Wilson, are you also employed by McIntyre Porcupine here in Grande Cache in underground mining operation?

A Yes.

Q How long have you been here?

A I started my first shift December 5, 1969.

Q And in which mine did you work?

A No. 5 mine.

Q And where had you worked prior to coming to Grande Cache?

A Gedling Collieries.

Q Where is that?

A Nottingham.

Q And for how long had you been engaged in mining in the United Kingdom?

A Four or five years.

Q I beg your pardon?

A Four to five years.

Q In what kind of mining?

A Mostly long wall.

Q And where were you recruited?

A I went for an interview at the Clarendon Hotel in Derby.

Q How did you happen to go to that interview?

A Well it was advertised in the paper and some of the lads

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Barry Wilson - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) were talking about it and four of us decided to go up and have a look at it and see what it was like.

Q With whom did you have an interview then?

A Gordon Cook.

Q Mr. Cook?

A Yes.

Q And was there any discussion with Mr. Cook as to the kind mining that was going to be done?

A Well the questions he asked me and the data that he seemed to give me it was going to be long wall.

Q Was there any discussion with Mr. Cook with respect to the length of employment here?

A Yes, as soon as I went in and started talking about the job, he said, I am guaranteeing you 15 years minimum, he says, that is more than the Coal Board can do because there is a lot of pits around our way at that time, underground mines, they shut them all down, and he came straight out and he said, I can offer you more security than the Coal Board could offer you.

Q You would then, of course, have been employed by the National Coal Board?

A Yes.

Q When you came to Grande Cache did you work in the No. 5 mine?

A Yes.

Q And are you able to tell us anything about the conditions or practices, to make that distinction, in that mine, to

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Barry Wilson - Stevenson Ex.

Q (Continued) elaborate on what we have heard here earlier?

A Condition in the mine, roof conditions were often bad and the practices of officials and workmen were deplorable many times.

Q Were there complaints made to management?

A Yes, I complained to management once and I was sacked on the spot.

Q What was your complaint?

A I was asked to roof bolt a face and the face back so I wouldn't interfere with the machine cutting.

Q And explain to us what problem that gave rise to?

A I was standing under 20 foot of open roof.

Q And did you refuse?

A Yes.

Q To whom did you complain?

A I didn't, I just went out of the pit, they fired me and the pit boss stopped me on the way out and asked me what was going on.

Q Who did this, who was the person inside?

A The fire boss, Archie Emblau.

Q And was this discussion, was this discussed with anyone else in McIntyre Porcupine?

A Yes, the pit boss, he stopped me when I was on the way out of the mine.

Q Who was the pit boss?

A Bill Burrows.

Q And what was your discussion with the pit boss?

A Well I told him what had transpired and he came up to District with me and when we got there the place had been bolted how the fire boss wanted it to be bolted, and Bill Burrows talked to Archie and says, well he is here now, put him back on his own job, and he said, if you leave him here I will fire him again, he said you better get him out of here and find him a job somewhere else.

Q And did he?

A Oh yes, he put me wet stoping.

Q What does that involve?

A That means standing under a stream of water drilling holes.

Q Who had actually done the work that you refused to do?

A Another Union member who since has become a fire boss.

Q Was there anything else in connection with the operation, the condition of that mine at this point that you know was brought to the attention of management?

A Yes, I was working one area where there was a lot of coal left and there was old workings, and myself and the second operator and the bolter pointed out to the mine superintendent five junctions that were unsafe and going to cave. Within two weeks all them junctions caved.

Q Who was the mine superintendent?

A Stan Alton. On one occasion on the Friday afternoon shift, or Friday shift, I am not sure, last shift, we pointed out that the miner shouldn't be left in a place because it was

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Barry Wilson - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) going to cave behind, we thought it was going to cave behind, and he said, no, you are not paid to think you are paid to do.

Q Who was this?

A Stan Alton. And so they spent two weeks getting the machine out after it had caved behind during the weekend.

Q Anything else?

A Many instances like that that they wouldn't listen to the men at all.

Q Was this common in number 5?

A It was common with a lot of officials but there were some officials that would listen to the men. There was one instance we was cutting a roadway and in my opinion and the men on my crew it required booming and we wouldn't cut it no more and we wouldn't bolt it no more without booming. The prior shift agreed to cut it and bolt it and boom it, the shift following us. Stan Alton took me to one side and he said, will you cut that roadway today, and I says, no, and he says, well what is going to happen here, he says, we are going to lose troublemakers, he says, there is going to be a big shake-up here, anybody that opens his mouth and doesn't do what he is told will be down the road. I says, are you implying that I am going down the road, and he says, if the cap fits wear it.

Q Now was there any discussion that you were involved in with people above him?

A Stewart Little, that is all.

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Barry Wilson - Stevenson Ex.

Q What was Mr. Little to do?

A I think he was a production supervisor.

Q And what did you tell him?

A Well myself, Stewart Little seemed pretty fair with me, he would listen to you.

Q Did you tell him about these kinds of problems?

A I never got a chance to, Stan Alton was the big man there.

Q Tell me, Mr. Wilson, was there anything that was said to you in your interview in Derby, anything else that we haven't been told that you found not to be carried out here, or not to have been accurate here?

A Not really, no.

Q Did you get a resettlement grant?

A Yes, I got a resettlement grant.

MR. STEVENSON: That is the questions I have.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Sabey?

MR. SABEY: Mr. Chairman, we were unaware that Mr. Wilson was coming here this morning and I would just like one moment, please.

MR. CRUMP: Yes. Perhaps, Mr. Sabey, we might take a break at this time, would that be convenient?

MR. SABEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CRUMP: We will break at this time, ladies and gentlemen, and come back in fifteen minutes.

(Hearing adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)

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B. Wilson - Sabey Cr.Ex.

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Sabey?

Q MR. SABEY: Mr. Wilson, these occurrences which you have related with Mr. Alton?

A Yes.

Q When did they happen, roughly?

A Roughly this one that I - cutting the bad roadway? That was about November, December time.

Q That is '72?

A '72, the case where I was momentarily sacked happened in 1970.

Q Happened in 1970?

A 1970.

Q Just on that point, sir, did you lose any income?

A I lost nothing whatsoever. The other instance was around about last summer just before the summer holidays last year.

Q 1972?

A Yes.

Q So they varied from 1970 --

A There's a lot of other instances that happened in between these ones that just spring to mind.

Q You moved here in December of '69?

A That's right.

Q Have you a wife and family?

A Wife, yes.

Q Do you have a house that you bought from the company?

A Yes.

Q Sir, is it accurate to say that everyone who was here and in

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B. Wilson - Sabey Cr. Ex.

N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

the house before January of 1970 didn't have to pay anything on that house until January of 1970?

A I don't know; I never lived in the house until I think it was March 4th.

Q You didn't move in when you first got here?

A No.

Q Sir, the members of the Safety Committee; do you know who they are?

A Yes.

Q And they are workmen in the mine, aren't they?

A Yes.

Q And they see the practices in the mine, don't they?

A They see work done in the mine, yes.

Q And they see safety practices that are going on as workmen?

A Well, I should think so, yes.

Q Thank you very much.

MR. CRUMP: No re-examination?

MR. STEVENSON: No re-examination.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you very much, Mr. Wilson,
for coming; you may stand down.

A Thank you.

(Witness retired.)

NEIL ROYAL, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Royal, you are employed by McIntyre Porcupine in Grande Cache?

A Yes.

Q And you are involved in underground mining?

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N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

A Yes - no I was not - yes, underground mining, yes, sir.

Q And I understand that you were recruited in Nova Scotia?

A Yes, sir.

Q And how long had you been mining in Nova Scotia prior to being recruited?

A Eight to ten years, sir.

Q And were you experienced in most operational phases underground?

A Not the type they had here, sir. We have continuous mining, long walls, but not like the long walls they have here.

Q Were you involved in long mining?

A Yes, we could call it, but a different style of what United Kingdom was used to. We were what you call gob work. Continuous mining, long wall faces, not shears and stuff like that, you know.

Q It was a long wall method --

A Yes, sir.

Q -- carried out in a different manner?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who recruited you?

A Dave Parks.

Q Was he with McIntyre?

A Yes, I think he was a mining engineer at the time.

Q Can you tell me this, how did you learn about the --

A Well, that is not so much the advertising in the paper, a friend of mine who is staff man here, he, David Parks was coming to his place and he lived across the road. So he

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N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

contacted me and told me that Dave Parks would be up to his place on the following, Wednesday, we say, why don't I come over and have a talk to him. So that Wednesday he came to Mr. White's place and me and the wife went over and then he asked me all kinds of questions; how long I had been in the mine; what I was doing. And at this time he was interviewing me I wasn't working in the mine. I was going to trade school.

Q What trade?

A Welder: that all came about because we were getting laid off as the mines were closing. The last hired on was first to be laid off. So I had an opportunity to go in as an apprentice as a welder with this company, what we call the power plant at home. So I did and joined the union as a welder, pipe fitter welder. So this, when they started building this, we moved to New Glasglow in Nova Scotia where we built a pulp mill. We worked there and when that finished off, like all unions you wait until jobs come up and then you get placed again. So in the meantime, Manpower put me through this trade school bit; every two weeks you get so much money. I think it was \$128 I think at the time, you know. So I seen Dave Parks; he took my name and he said there would be recruiters in again and he showed me pictures of Grande Cache, the housing and the rate of pay which each miner, if he is qualified, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, and he told me it was one of the most modern mines in Canada. Well I worked in a mine and I left paradise. But anyway he told me at the Glace Bay Hotel there would be a Mr. New-

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N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

kirk. I think at that time was Mr. Roberts would be, that he would let us know. So I guess a little later on we did get notified in the paper that - the Cape Breton Post that those men were in the Glace Bay Hotel. So I went down by myself because my wife had to watch the baby. I went down and I met - there was four or five of us, Buddy Robinson, which is a staff representative today, the company. And he talked to us and he showed us more pictures, practically the same thing, you know. And he told us the price of the houses which didn't come close to what prices were when I landed here. For a four room, bedroom, I was going to pay \$148 I think and when I got here I got a three bedroom, and I was paying 190 something. Anyway he told me that they would notify me. So Dave Parks came back in and he was at Manpower, recruiting through Manpower so I went down there. I talked to Mr. Parks and Mr. Jones who was looking after all those miners that weren't working at the time. And Dave Parks told me, he said, "You know, you are one of the lucky ones," he said, "Manpower would be moving you." If I had had to have waited for that I would have been still home. And he gave me a white envelop, sealed, and told me to take it to a doctor across, I think it was Dr. Houle or something across the road; you could see it from where we were sitting and get an examination. So I did this. The doctor examined me and he said, "You know, you are the sixth one I examined today and," he said, "for coal miners you are in pretty good shape." So he went through, you know, examined me and then he sealed the

envelop and he said to take this back. So I took it back. I signed some papers through Manpower and Mr. Parks said, "We'll notify you." Oh, I guess it was a while; I kept interest I kept - they tell me they lost my - he sent me a letter first, this is what it was. I have the letter home. He said, we can't take you on the first bunch but you go on the second group. That was fair enough with me as long as I was going; I wanted the job; I needed a job, a coal miner. So the next thing I know I get word that they lost my examination; lost all of them. So in the meantime I was finished trade school and I talked to Mr. Jones.

Q In your interviews with McIntyre people, was there any discussion about the length of the employment?

A Dave, Mr. Parks told me that they had a contract with Japan which guarantees and I can bring my wife with me and she'll tell you, guarantees me 15 years work and probably a 30-year stay because they're going to negotiate again for the other 15 years. He said it could be a 30-year.

Q This was told you by Mr. Parks?

A By Mr. Dave Parks, said with three, four other people beside myself.

Q Was that discussed with any other representative of McIntyre?

A No, sir, I must say that when we went to the hotel there was no mention to me anyway because I got there a little late; could have mentioned it earlier.

Q And was there any indication to you of the kind of mining that

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N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

you were going to be carrying out?

A No, sir, just showed pictures of the machinery that they would be using, you know.

Q Was there anything else told to you by McIntyre people in Nova Scotia that you found to be inaccurate when you got here outside of the house costs?

A Yes, not actually that exactly, I guess, told by McIntyre, but I was one that came what you call through this Manpower deal; Manpower was doing the talking for McIntyre but the representative was there for McIntyre. He told me that I would get this money; this relocation money.

Q The location money?

A And I landed in Grande Cache and they told me there would be a home ready for me when I got here which was not ready for me when I got here. Outside of that there was no other thing that McIntyre told me that was in effect at all.

Q Did you get the relocation grant?

A No, sir.

Q Was that because you came from Manpower?

A Yes, sir, the money that I did receive from McIntyre was told to me by Jim Dunn I would have to pay it back to McIntyre when I received my money from Manpower.

Q McIntyre did give you --

A He give me \$200 - well, here's how - if you want to I'll tell you how it worked out. I moved to Calgary; I was going to explain why I went to Calgary. It won't take me long. I went

in to see Mr. Jones and he told me there would be no work or no chance of getting a job until the following, it was in June, October or November. They were going to put me you see, to go for learning first.

Q For training?

A Yes, well, I only had a grade 5 education, eh? 15 years I got to grade 5. They took me to trade school for ten months and they give me from grade 5 to grade 10. So I said, "That's not a bad deal,", you know. I couldn't go back, then you go back after you have come out to give other people a chance to go in for their learning. You go back when they get an opening to be trained as a welder. So I had to wait until my opening came. So I was waiting, no income, no unemployment whatsoever. Which I had to get out of the place I was living because I couldn't afford to pay for it. So I asked him what I was supposed to eat for the time being and I mean, you could go to the welfare which I never did, you go to the welfare and he gave you \$15 a week but he wants you to go to work or something picking up garbage bags. I don't mind this but I didn't go \$15 a week is no good for me working with two kids. I don't think it is anyway. That wouldn't cover your light or your coal or your food. So I went back again to Manpower. I said, there must be something and he said there is nothing. So in the meantime my wife's uncle came from Calgary; give me free transportation back to Calgary. And I could stay there until I got a job. I went to Mr. Jones and I told him. I said I got an opportunity now to

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go to Calgary which is closer to Grande Cache I said and I was wondering and he said it would be all right to go as long as I notified them that I was going. So I went; and I got a job where we landed in there at 7:00 o'clock in the morning at 3:00 o'clock that afternoon I had a job. It wasn't much but it was an income of good money. I went to the Manpower the following day and I talked to the gentleman and he said, no, problem at all, "We'll locate you from Glace Bay to Calgary." He said, "Leave it with me." And I left it with him. And he phoned me, no way. He says he's got no record that I was coming here. So I fought this; I sent letters which I got everything, copies. They even told him that I hadn't even been in for an application to go to McIntyre. So I goes out to McIntyre and I gets a fellow and he checks it, They paid for my X-rays in Glace Bay, paid by McIntyre. And I got a letter where McIntyre told me to come out.

Q You have got a complaint with Manpower?

A In one sense.

Q I understand you went back to Nova Scotia yourself and recruited for McIntyre?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you have any instructions as to what to say?

A Excuse me, if you don't mind. I didn't go to Nova Scotia as a recruiter. I went as a union representative with the recruiter.

Q Were there any instruction as to what was to be said about what

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length of term?

A Not to me, sir, but as we went down - I just went down. He come to my house and asked me would I go down. I said I would go down as a union representative only. He said, "Good enough," so I went with Mr. Jim Dunn and my wife --

Q Mr. Dunn?

A My wife and his wife. We went to the Glace Bay Hotel and we had an advertisement in the way that he was recruited. I was there when Mr. Dunn - this thousand dollar bit - people were questioned on the thousand dollar relocation money. Mr. Dunn told them that the recruiters that were in there earlier did not explain it to the people. The people figured this thousand dollars relocation made to you when you hit Grande Cache. Nothing to do with your furniture or hotel or anything. I thought we therefore would receive a thousand dollars but he says, it's not so. He said McIntyre is willing to pay bills up to \$1,000 when you come to Grande Cache and present your bills. He said if you only pay 500 that's how much money you will receive. If you paid 1200, I don't know how they were going to work that one out. He said up to a thousand dollars anyway.

Q So it was indicated that there may have been some misunderstanding before but this was the terms that the thousand dollars should have been considered?

A Yes, like, my saying, it might not have been through the company's fault this mistake was made. It may have been through

the people that were recruiting and trying to get guys the best way they knew how to get them.

Q All right; now, when you were down with Mr. Dunn was there any discussions with any of the people who came in with respect to length of employment that they might expect?

A Yes, it was 15 years only. He told them that they had a contract signed for 15 years.

Q What year was this?

A It was 1970 or '71, sir; I think it was '71. I can't quite recall the date but I can get it for you if necessary.

Q That's close enough for our purposes.

A It was 1971.

Q Mr. Royal, can you add anything to what has already been told to us with respect to what I might call current conditions or practices in the mine?

A As far as the safety men are concerned, they do a fine job but the, a couple of union men were questioned at this table about reporting it to the safety men and one answer was if they weren't - I am not the brightest type - but in other words, scared. This Town since I came here in '69 is not all rosy, not for none of us. And a matter of fact talking about reporting safety to a supervisor or to your union men is only a slight little argument, but when a man comes off of work after working eight hard hours and goes into a tavern to have a drink and one of the officials are there and he as much as opens his mouth, Bill Murray got you in front of his office

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the next morning and says, "Don't you talk to my supervisors," and if you criticize them you are fired. And if you fight with them you might as well forget about it.

Q What about now, do you have a problem now?

A No, well, no, I did - but the whole Town, not just McIntyre and the union, this whole Town if it was to get together, we have one of what everybody is talking about the most beautiful place in Alberta. We would and we could and the new outfit that is there now, the company management, all new staff, I think they're going to make a go of it. They're trying their best and I hope to God the union and the rest of the people get behind them because I think we can make a go of it, now that things have been - we're not putting it all on the company, please don't think that for one minute I am blaming it all on the company, because I am not. We have a few that is just as much as the company. But it seems like they weeded out and the rest of them weeded out, I think the ones that are here now are here to stay until the last gun is fired.

Q As a miner you don't see any insurmountable problems from your point of view?

A No.

Q Insurmountable. Mr. Royal were you present in any of the discussions with McIntyre?

A Yes, sir.

Q Which ones?

A I was at them all, sir.

Q How many were there?

A There was three. There was only one name I think that wasn't mentioned at that meeting and that was the union representative Bill Berezowski.

Q B-e-r-e-z-o-w-s-k-i from Edmonton?

A He was our union representative.

Q Which meeting?

A At the third one, sir, the final one.

Q And what do you recall as the discussion about the seven, five day operation?

A It was brought to - I think this was roughly around the second meeting that this seven day - it was brought in by Mr. Richardson. I think it might have slipped Mr. Farmer's mind but I think we would have told him that we would take it back to the floor and we would have an answer for him at the following meeting. Because we just don't go in and if he says we're going to do this and we say, "Yes, we must discuss this with the floor."

Q When you say the floor that is taking it back to the membership?

A Yes, sir. So we called a special meeting and the membership was there and Mr. Farmer would put it to them exactly the way the company asked.

Q What exactly did the company ask?

A The company - oh, I can't remember that but he asked about this seven and two that they would - I can't remember exactly to tell you the truth but exactly what Ged and the rest of them says is just about exactly the same. The only difference was at this

meeting, they told them we would take it back to the floor, that Mr. Richardson had made this - but still the men were going, them 148 men that they had, they were going regardless if we went on ten and one. They were going somewhere. But anyway, we took it back to the floor and the feeling of the men was that we came here to make a living which we didn't make somewhere else then. We got a five and two; what we're not going to live in the mine; it's no life for your family. When I came here I worked 21 and 7 and when my 7 days was up and I went across the river and worked the seven days and then back on the 21 in the other mine. Well, I mean, because I had to; I had no grant, no money, no nothing. And through this furniture man in this Town here I still say, "Thanks a lot", because he was the one that helped me out until I got some money. He gave me stuff to put in my house and if it was only through him I wouldn't have had nothing. I slept on the floor until I met him.

Q Now, back to the meeting on the Saturday morning, the third meeting, what was the discussion then on the five and two or seven and two?

A Well, it was no discussion, sir, because the floor just turned it down.

Q On the Saturday morning?

A When we went back, well, we had the meeting, the following meeting was the third meeting. We had everybody there Mr. Fulton and all. So the floor come up with the suggestion that we have a voluntary layoff instead of this -.

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N. Royal - Stevenson Ex.

Q All right, what did the floor turn down as you understood it?

A Well, I'll tell you how it worked out. It is not that they didn't want to take seven and two and employ all the men, like Mr. Farmer says but we have been getting so many promises at one end of the table and then when they went through the door they were forgotten about.

Q Do you understand that when you left the meeting earlier in the week, before you took it to your membership, did you understand that if there was a seven day operation those 148 men would or would not be laid off?

A They would be laid off; this was the feeling; maybe they wouldn't have been but this is the feeling that the union through the dealings we already had with the company. If we had have agreed to the seven and two and went back and said, "Yes, the floor agrees to the seven and two," "Good, the 148 men will go; we'll change your shift, you start Wednesday, you start Thursday, you start Monday. We'll get those seven and two in."

Q Did you understand on the Monday or Tuesday or earlier in the week that if you went to seven and two the 148 men would not be laid off?

A No, sir.

Q Did you understand they would be laid off?

A Yes, sir, that is the feeling.

Q All right, that's all the questions I have.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Sabey?

MR. SABEY:

Thank you very much.

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Mr. Royal, you say, turning back to this thousand dollar rehabilitation or relocation whatever it's called, that some confusion may have arisen as to what it was and that was clarified later when you went down, Mr. Dunn clarified it on a subsequent occasion?

A Yes, sir.

Q That is a grant or rehabilitation grant that came from Manpower?

A Yes, sir.

Q And is it possible that the confusion on that came from Manpower?

A I don't know, sir, because they never promised me a thousand dollars when I was interviewed because I was coming through the Manpower. There was no dealing with me about a thousand dollars at all.

Q But you don't know where the confusion arose?

A No, just from what we got as a union representative appearing for the men, but this man did say that they would receive a thousand dollars.

Q And not through Manpower?

A No, sir, from McIntyre.

Q And you explained that you weren't hired in Nova Scotia that you came here and got a job?

A I was actually first, like I say; there was a mix up, they lost my examination.

Q They hadn't hired you I understood?

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N. Royal - Sabey Cr.Ex.

A Oh, yes.

Q In Nova Scotia?

A Yes, sir, according to Mr. Parks. I have the letter stating I would go with the second bunch. Even the doctor in Edmonton--

Q When was that to go, sir?

A Well, the second group, well, I don't know, if they can roughly give me an idea when Boody White and them fellows came. They were in the first group.

Q Were you ever told when that second group was --

A No, sir, they, he said they would notify me.

Q And you never got that notification?

A No, sir.

Q So you then came to Calgary; you came here yourself?

A Yes, sir.

Q And the company did give you \$200 to move from Calgary and --

A Yes, sir, in Edmonton, on the grounds that I would pay it back when I got my money from Manpower.

Q The thousand dollars you mean from Manpower?

A No, the relocation, I figured --

Q Well whatever it was, up to a thousand dollars?

A No, sir, at that time a fellow came here, there was fellows coming through Manpower were getting 20 and 2100 dollars.

Q So the former thousand dollars --

A Well, he would say a thousand dollars. The guy would say, "I don't know what you are going to get, eh? I don't care."

Q So that I am clear, Mr. Royal, you were to repay McIntyre when

and if you got --

A Yes, sir.

Q -- money from the Manpower whether it was a thousand dollars or whether Manpower paid you more than a thousand dollars?

A Yes, sir, that is right.

Q Sir, in the brief there is a suggestion that management treats the workers as merely chattels, is that your feeling?

A Well, I don't know that I made that statement.

Q No, sir, I didn't say you did, I said in the brief.

A The earlier management, I would say, yes.

Q Well, did you have any personal feelings about that that you had been treated as a chattel by the management?

A Oh, not me, so much; I haven't been treated that way, because I'll tell you one thing, one thing should be clarified here. I work on the surface I am not an underground - well, I be underground but I'm not in the working faces like the rest of the men.

Q Well, in point of fact the company refused to honour a wage assignment you had made, taking your position that it may not be a legal assignment, didn't they?

A Pardon?

Q You made - let me start from scratch. You made a wage assignment to Seaboard Finance in Edmonton?

A No, sir, no, I went there one day and he fired the bill in my face and took it all off at one shot, if that's what you mean.

Q I haven't got that. It has your name on it.

3-BB-19

N. Royal - Sabey Cr.Ex.

A Agreed to pay so much?

Q Yes?

A But not the whole shot at once.

Q But you signed --

A Oh, I am sorry, yes, I am sorry, I apologize for that.

Q You assigned \$60 per pay period.

A Right, when I came here I owed everybody.

Q You have made that quite clear.

A Yes, sir.

Q You were aware of that that when Seaboard attempted to enforce that that the company took the position that it may not be a valid assignment?

A No.

Q You were not aware of that?

A No.

Q Would it surprise you to know that they did take that position?

A All I know, sir, I was called in the office by Barry Roberts and he showed, put the paper out there and he said he paid so much to this company. I think it was what do you call this thing you put in against your wages?

Q Garnishee?

A Yes, sir, and I said, "How much was it?" And he told me. I said, "That's not too bad." I signed it; I got my following pay and they took the whole --

Q You were subsequently garnisheed?

A Yes, sir.

Q But you don't know what the company did?

A No, sir, they never notified me.

3-BB-20

N. Royal - Sabey Cr.Ex.

Q Have you had continuous employment then since you got here, sir?

A Yes, except I was fired at the same time Mr. Farmer was.

Q You were a union executive?

A I was a chief shop steward, yes.

Q And how long were you off?

A The same time, sir, same length of time.

Q And did the company claim damages against you?

A No, sir.

Q But other than that you have had continuous employment since you have been here?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you indicated in some cases you had double employment when you were working the 21 and 7?

A Well, either that or -.

Q Sure, and you are to be commended for it. I don't think I have any further questions, thank you.

MR. CRUMP: Any re-examination?

MR. STEVENSON: No re-examination, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Well, thank you, Mr. Royal, for coming. I must say though that this Commission devoutly shares your hopes this will be a great little community. And the appointment of this Commission was intended to try and aid that objective. Thank you for coming.

A Thank you, sir.

(Witness retired.)

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

AL NEARY, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Neary, you are employed by McIntyre Porcupine here in Grande Cache?

A Pardon me?

Q You are employed here by McIntyre Porcupine in Grande Cache?

A Yes, sir.

Q And were you involved in underground mining?

A Not at the present, I am working with the mine rescue team right now.

Q Have you been employed in underground mining here?

A Yes, sir.

Q I take it you were recruited in Nova Scotia as well?

A Yes, sir.

Q And were you involved in underground mining in Nova Scotia before your recruitment?

A Yes, sir, 15 years.

Q You had 15 years experience in Nova Scotia?

A Yes, sir.

Q And with what aspects, all aspects of underground mining?

A Well, I started off and try to bring you right up to the day. I started right off with the pick and shovel, you know, right up to the modern long wall shears.

Q Were you experienced in long wall mining?

A Yes, sir.

Q And where were you working, what area were you working in when you were recruited?

A I was working in 26 Colliery as a shear operator.

3-BB-22

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

Q Where is that?

A In Glace Bay.

Q And how did you come to contact McIntyre?

A Boody White came down; he is one of our fellow Nova Scotians, he came down to Glace Bay and he come to visit me. And he told me about they were looking for shear operators. He said they had the most modern mine in Canada. Plus he said it was a little town snuggled in the foothills of the Rockies and there's a lot of stuff he told me that I found out later wasn't true.

Q Was Mr. White employed by McIntyre?

A Yes.

Q And can you tell me what things he told you that were not correct?

A Well, the first thing he said was it was the most modern mine in Canada. I never heard such a ridiculous statement in my life when I seen it. The next thing he told me was that the cost of living up here was about the same as where I was living and there was no comparison whatsoever. The biggest thing he said to me was to sell all my furniture home, don't take anything up here because I could get it cheaper. I found out different.

Q Did he tell you how you were going to get it cheaper?

A Well, he said they had stores up here, I mean furniture stores that you could get your furniture, he says, cheap, especially small appliances and stuff like this he said, leave this all

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

behind.

Q Did you?

A Oh, yes, it's still behind.

Q Did you understand there was some special outlet or other?

A No, he just told me that the stores were about the same cost of living out there.

Q As where?

A As in Glace Bay.

Q And this wasn't so?

A No.

Q What else did he tell you?

A He told me that there they were, the biggest thing they were looking for a shearer operator here and he, like, he worked with me back home before he come here. And he worked on different long walls with me. And he knew pretty well what I could do and so he said they were in a bad way for shear operators and McIntyre was sending him down to recruit me. Plus there was another gentleman come in at the time I think it was the day after that, Barry Roberts. He come in and he really put over to me that there was this big 15 year work here. So this is the biggest reason I left Glace Bay. I had a good job I was working under one of the former mine managers that was there, Jerry Hartley. So I spoke to Jerry Hartley on it. I said, "You were up there, what do you think of it?" So Jerry Hartley told me, he said, "It is a good mine to work in," he said, "you are going to have a lot of problems with the people." He said, "There's a different type of management than

what you are used to," he said, "this would be one of the biggest problems." So, he asked me like why did I want to go. He said, "Why you wanting to leave us, this company?" Well, I think I said, "If you recall," I said, "When I started here 15 years ago, I signed on with this company as a temporary employee," and I said, "I always got this threat over me; if there is a big layoff." The only way I would go was if there was two mines went I could be possibly laid off. So, I told him, "This is the biggest reason that I am pulling out. I think it would be a way better outlook for the kids." I said, "I got five children there and this is what I have got to start thinking about right now is the family."

Q When did you come to Grande Cache then?

A In '70, in May.

Q When would these discussions have taken place?

A That was just, oh, to explain it, they started - like, the first month, before May, and Boody White was there trying to recruit me and Barry Roberts said, "Well, we need you that much," he said, "I got an urgent call; I got to go back to Grande Cache" and he said, "if you have any problems or anything like that," he said, "you call Grande Cache," give me the number and everything, "you call Grande Cache, call me and I'll let you know what's going on." So when he left I started to take this medical and I got a little bit shy. I said to the wife, "I don't think it is going to be a good move." I said, "I don't trust that fellow." So they sent in Mr. Newkirk and Newkirk

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

pretty well told me the same thing, that they were looking for shear operators and they give a big song and dance about the lovely Town and everything. So I went about a whole month. I took so much of the medical and then I quit. I just said, "No, I think I'll give it up." So me and the wife was discussing the fact over the table. I said, "Well, okay, I am going to go. I am going to make the move." So I went and I finished the medical and I ended up here.

Q Were you employed as a shearer operator here?

A Yes, but I never operated it.

Q You were employed as it but didn't work at it?

A No, I was employed as a shearer operator. It was the same type of shearer. It was a double drum shearer that I worked on at home in Nova Scotia. The shearer I come on here was exactly the same but it was a different, there was a different system in operating. The way we done it in Nova Scotia was one fellow operated the front drum and the other operator, he operated the back drum. One drum was up and the other one was down. One fellow cut the bottom, the other fellow cut the top, but up here with this machine, there was only one man could operate the machine. I was more of watching the cable and things like this. I didn't have that much to do with the shear. The biggest amount of work I done on this long wall was to carry sleeper, chock blocks what they call them here. We used to call them sleepers, something like you would use under a railroad. We just carried them back and forth up the wall. And

the roof conditions was ridiculous; you couldn't get very little coal off the face. Every time you would go to cut the whole roof and everything would just keep coming in ahead of you as you were moving ahead. So Walter Mueller got me to the side when I come up there and he said, "You're the great white hope," he said, "you are going to save this McIntyre." So he said, "I want you as a shearer operator to tell me, you have had quite a few years at it and you are experienced," he said, "any little thing you see wrong with that wall," he says, "you come and tell me." Well, I only worked on the wall one day and I went in to see Walter Mueller and he said, "What do you think?" And I said, "It is for the birds," I said, "you will never get that wall; you will never save that wall." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Probably if Christ comes back to earth we might get a miracle man like him to pull this through," I said, "but my honest opinion," I said, "you just can't do it, but" I said, "I'll give you a couple of suggestions." Well, he said, "What's that?" I said, "The first thing, you should hold roof coal." You see, we were cutting right to the stone. I said, "We should hold roof coal," because the experience that I had on long wall system, if you broke this roof coal you always get roof trouble. I mean you get into the stone. So, I said, "The biggest thing," I said, "you should try to hold roof coal on the place and then when you can get your jacks in under this roof coal, that's going to take time; it is going to be a long drawn out thing to get back on the roof, but" I said,

"you will hold the roof coal and get back under the roof and then," I said, "I think then you will have her made." So, "Oh," he said, "I can't see that," he says, "I can't see that." Well, I said, "You asked me," I said, "I am telling you." So just when the wall was finished I was coming up the wall, I'll never forget it. I was coming up the wall with a big sleeper on my back dragging it up to put over this chuck and there was a gentleman standing there, a gray haired man and he, Walter Mueller called me over and he said, he introduced me to the man, I couldn't tell you his name and he said, "This is a roof specialist," he said, "I just, we just got him in," he said, "and he come up with a solution how to get this off." I said, "What was that?" He said, "Leave roof coal on," and he said, "You know, if you only knew the thousands of dollars," he said, "we are paying that man and you told me that for nothing." So, the whole thing, the way I was concerned and the system that they worked under - like, you have two levels, eh? You have your block of coal and then your retreat back, taking your block of coal out which are two levels. So you should have an intake and a return for air, eh? But this return, the top of the wall, you couldn't get anything in there. A man had to crawl in on his belly so if the wall came in at the bottom well, she was curtains, you didn't get off her until somebody come and found you. And I didn't like the system at all. I figured the walls that I worked on you always had a high level that would be at the top of your wall and then if you needed material you would

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

haul your material in the top level and just throw it on the pan line, send it down to the pan line for the workers to use, but here you had to carry it physically, pick it up and carry it up the wall and then when Ged tried to get over, like he said before, was this they pillared out all on the high side. This is the top level that I am talking about. Up in this Lee Norse 7, they pillared all this area out and you start to throw your weight plus this they couldn't get any material in because they were taking out the block stuff on the high side and it was thrown all the ^{weight} / down, and this level that they were supposed to have, for to haul material in, well, you could just get through on your belly.

Q Which mine was this?

A Number 2.

Q Did you work in No. 5?

A No.

Q When the long wall method was abandoned, what work did you do?

A We, when we started to abandon the wall, they put me on taking all the jacks off it. We released the jacks, put chock blocks up to the roof and we released the jack, let the pressure off of the jack and we would hook on to the jack with a rope type. We set up at the bottom of the wall and we would hook on to this jack and pull it down and take it out of the mine. So we took all the jacks off of that wall.

Q Can you add anything to what we have been told about current safety conditions now, operations?

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

A Right now?

Q Yes?

A Well, like I just said previous I have been working with the mine rescue, but before that, but I am a Safety Committee man but right now I never played that big a part in it because I am stuck on the surface with this rescue business and trying to get this organized because that's another big schemozzle as far as I am concerned. But previous to that I was on the mine rescue team or on that the safety committee and I go around each month and anything that I see is unsafe, I report it, plus I write a report to the inspector each month.

Q Did you keep copies of your reports?

A I got some of them; I wouldn't say I had them all but I got some, the majority of them.

Q You mean you keep them personally?

A Yes, and when we had this tie-up, like, the men wouldn't go to work or whatever way you want to put it, this started over - like, Mr. Bradbury said it was probably before I ever even landed here, the safety. Well, when I took over the Safety Committee and I found an awful - the men were scared; they were scared to come out and say anything. I don't know why, I think, my feeling was that every fellow that hired on, when he went through the deployment centre, they beat him and said, "Don't open your mouth." This is the feeling I got, you know, from the men because they were always scared to say anything. But every report when I go through the mine and whatever I felt, on the report she went, plus we had management meetings with management.

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.

on safety.

Q Were they acted upon?

A Some of them, very little; very little, I'll say that, because when the mine stopped I believe I was on midnight shift and I went out and there was a steel girder in Number 3 entry that I reported on my safety report for at least three to four months, I had been reporting this. Not only on my report, plus too the pit bosses and it was never done. This is, when I went out and they stopped the mine that night, I said to the men, "You will not go beyond this point; you are not going under that, because there is only one leg under that steel girder and one of youse gets murdered," I said, "I am just as much at fault as the company."

Q What about the current safety conditions, now?

A Well, the roadways are most of the problems right about now, trying to get those roadways timbered. They got a maintenance shift, now, so those people I imagine, like I explained I haven't been in the pit now since two months but I imagine with this spare shift that they got they should be getting all this timbering done. I couldn't give you a correct answer if it is being done or if it is not being done.

Q Are you able to say to us, now, whether or not the conditions or managerial atmosphere or whatever it may be, is satisfactory?

A I would say this, that the men in this Town can't believe what is happening to see a manager go through a mine and pat you on the back and say, "You are doing a good job." They never seen the like of this in their lives. They seen it probably from the

A. Neary - Stevenson Ex.
- Sabey Cr.Ex.

places that they come from previous but here with the first management, no way, no way.

Q Would you answer Mr. Sabey, please?

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

MR. SABEY: I don't know about asking questions after that ending, Mr. Stevenson. That's what you call a hot potato.

Q MR. SABEY: Mr. Neary, you weren't scared; you weren't beaten when you went through the employment process?

A No.

Q You weren't afraid to speak out, were you?

A No.

Q Well, can you explain why the others appeared to be?

A I don't know.

Q Well, sir, - I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off.

A I couldn't say why the others were scared, I don't know why, I mean.

Q If they were?

A There was that feeling, eh?

Q They looked to you as though they were scared?

A They were nervous, wouldn't say anything.

Q But you can't explain why?

A No.

Q Sir, if one of these people did report an instance to the Safety Committee, the Committee could act on it without identifying the source of their information couldn't they;

A. Neary - Sabey Cr.Ex.

you didn't have to name the fellow?

A No, but the company always, "Who told you that?"

Q Well, did that happen?

A Oh, yes, "Who told you that?"

Q Every time?

A That was the first thing, yes.

Q I see; now, sir, you start off by saying that you were told this was the most modern mine in Canada and you didn't agree with that?

A No way.

Q But, sir, on the other hand you talked with a Mr. Jerry Hartley before you came out here?

A Yes.

Q And Mr. Hartley had been working here and had gone back to Nova Scotia and you talked to him about all this?

A Yes, he was mine manager.

Q And he was the one who told you it was a good mine?

A He said it was a good mine he said it is just the people.

Q You just don't agree with Mr. Hartley?

A Oh, no, I would like to have a good talk to him later on if I could.

Q You talked to him about people too?

A I spoke to him about people; he said there's a big variety, he said, of all different nationalities he said, probably you won't be used to that.

Q Did you talk to him about the cost of living?

A I asked him about the cost of living he said, well, he didn't

A. Neary - Sabey Cr.Ex.

give me a definite answer.

Q Did you talk to him about furniture?

A No.

Q Availability of furniture here?

A All I asked him was what was his opinion on the place.

Q But you didn't, I think you said that you told your wife you didn't trust the fellow from McIntyre?

A No, I didn't.

Q Painting this rosy picture?

A No.

Q So you checked a lot of these things with Mr. Hartley?

A I asked him different things but I didn't ask him - I asked him about housing was the most thing.

Q Mr. Neary, maybe it is because we Westerners are so used to
more
paying/for manufactured products than those in Eastern Canada
that we don't - -

MR. STEVENSON:

Mr. Sabey is talking about freight rates.

MR. SABEY:

I didn't figure freight rates at all, Mr. Stevenson.

Q MR. SABEY:

But at one point you suggested you felt very insecure in Nova Scotia because you had been hired as a temporary employee and that was held over you every time there was a layoff?

A I mean, you sign those papers when you are hired on.

Q Well, sir, didn't you get seniority in Nova Scotia?

A Oh, yes.

Q And you had 15 years seniority?

A I had but as I was trying to explain the only way I could have been out of a job was if they closed two pits. If they just closed one mine there was no way they could get rid of me.

Q So the fact that you were temporary, 15 years ago, wasn't as important as the fact that you did have fifteen years seniority?

A Yes.

Q In determining whether you would be let go. Sir, in the brief you are quoted as saying that you were anxious to come to Grande Cache because the Nova Scotia coal fields were slumping economically?

A Right.

Q Yes, and as you have indicated you have five children and I think you say in the brief that considering the chronic economic problems in the Maritimes you thought Grande Cache would be a better outlook for your children as well as yourself?

A Yes, I did, but I found out different.

Q Well, sir, did you bring your family out here with you or did you bring them out later?

A I came out, I worked for a month.

Q Then brought your family out?

A And then I went into Edmonton to pick up my wife and I got off an airplane here in Grande Cache and a beautiful mine truck picked us up and I had to grab a hold of her because she wanted to get back on the airplane to go home.

Q But you were here a month before you brought your family here?

A Yes.

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A. Neary - Sabey Cr.Ex.

Q Did your family come with your wife or -

A Yes, sir.

Q So you knew the conditions before you sent for your family; you knew the conditions here before you brought your family out?

A Yes.

Q Did you get these benefits we have talked about, the resettlement grant?

A No, I didn't get it.

Q Was that a promise to you?

A Oh, that was a promise; that was one of the things that I couldn't get. Could I go on a little further?

Q By all means.

A Well, this grant that you were supposed to get a thousand dollars, I came up and like, my fare was paid, the thousand dollars plus the wife's and the children's fare was paid out of the thousand dollars plus the hotel that we stayed in. So it was a matter of \$40, \$45 it was in around that area was supposed to come back to me.

Q You mean the expenses were \$960?

A Something to that effect. But when I went out to get it they said, "Oh, very sorry, Mr. Neary, you come under a new policy." So this new policy that I come under was that I couldn't get the thousand dollars, I couldn't get the remainder but very conveniently two men come up behind me the next month from the same town and got the remainder of their money plus when I moved in the house, Ivan Morton was paying \$110 a month for that

A. Neary - Sabey Cr.Ex.

house. Fortunately when I went over to get the key to that house and sign the contracts for that house, Connie Fleck turned around and said, "Everything is arranged; go and get your utilities hooked up and everything." And I went over and I got on to the utilities hooked up and lights and everything and got everything paid. I come back and she said, "My God, Mr. Neary, you under a new policy." She said, "You got to pay \$165 a month."

Q Did you pay it?

A No, I went out to the mines like a bull and I went into Barry Roberts' office and I said, "If I got to pay \$165, I'll take it right out of your hide." And he said, "Oh, don't get excited." And I said I am --

Q I didn't hear the last bit.

A And I said, "I am God damn well excited." And I turned around and me and Barry Roberts had it out right there and Barry Roberts dropped it to \$130.

Q Now, sir, the fellow who paid \$110 how long had he been in the place?

A I couldn't say.

Q Well, a year, three years?

A I couldn't say; the only thing I could say to that he was moving out; he was getting a --

Q Do you know how long he had been there?

A No.

Q You don't know how prices may have increased in the interim?

3-BB-37

A. Neary - Sabey Cr.Ex.
- Patching Ex.

A No, the only thing I know, is I had to buy his carpet for \$400 before I was allowed to go into the house.

Q You have had a job with the company ever since you have been here?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you got the salary that was indicated to you when you were in Nova Scotia?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was that an increase over what you were making in Nova Scotia?

A A dollar a day; a dollar a day.

Q And you were aware of that before you decided to come?

A Oh, yes.

Q I take it, Mr. Neary, you don't share the view that Grande Cache is the land of opportunity?

A Well, right now, I mean with the new management that we got - I'll have to make this statement. With the new management we got I can't see it go anywhere but ahead. If we get good relationship between union and management.

MR. SABEY: Thank you, Mr. Neary.

MR. CRUMP: Any re-examination?

Mr. Patching, have you any questions of the witness?

MR. PATCHING EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Yes, I would just like to ask Mr. Neary - I don't know whether this is fair or not - but do you think this long wall method has had a fair trial in Grande Cache?

A. Neary - Patching Ex.
- Crump Ex.

A No, if they had of put the right type of men on it would have worked.

Q You think it would have worked?

A Oh, I believe, yes; a little bit of common sense used, that's all.

Q It was a matter of procedures and methods and not of ground conditions, that was required?

A Yes, sir.

MR. PATCHING: Thanks.

MR. CRUMP: Anything, Mr. Graham?

MR. GRAHAM: No.

MR. CRUMP EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Mr. Neary, I only have one question. As you know, the Commission is charged with looking at all aspects of the community as well as other matters. On page 12 of the brief that you have before you and I spoke to Mr. Cook about this. It is quoted here:

"Al Neary, the father of teenagers, spoke out for young people when he ran for town councillor earlier this year. 'I took a stiff position on teenagers,' he says. 'These are kids who are going to run this town in the future, and were doing nothing for them.'"

Could you expand on that a bit for us?

A Well, Your Honour, I don't know if you have teenage children yourself --

MR. CRUMP: Grandchildren.

A. Neary - Crump Ex.

A Grandchildren, but I have three teenagers; I have one young fellow my oldest boy is 17. He is leaving this Town this year because this is his complaint, he says there is nothing here for him. I have two teenage daughters and I don't believe we're going to hold them either unless this Town can come up with something very substantial and very soon and what I mean by that is the teenage kids today like you mentioned earlier about this beautiful arena we have over here, I got to agree with you. But if you don't like to skate or if you don't like to swim you pretty well haven't got anything. The biggest thing that I wanted to try to get over to the people of this Town is the teenage person is a person that is, well, they are not, they like to go out; they like to go into a place and sit down and have say a glass of coke and turn the juke box on and just pile themselves full of sweat. I mean, this is just their kind of life. I don't agree with it but that's their kind of life and I think we should try to get something for them.

Q MR. CRUMP: Well, I was in the Town of Glace Bay and in the mine. How would you say that the Town of Glace Bay differs?

A Oh, there's no comparison; you couldn't compare this Town with Glace Bay. This Town is I would say times over ahead of Glace Bay. Well, like my young fellow said to me, like, we often speak to each other occasionally. Well, like, one of the things he said to me, "Well, I got no place to go up here." I said, "You got the arena; you can go skating you can go swimming."

3-BB-40

A. Neary - Crump Ex.

G.F. Hurst - Stevenson Ex.

He said, "I would like to go to a place and sit down and have a glass of pop and turn on the juke box and hear some music," he said, "like I used to do at home." And like I say, I don't agree with them but, I mean, we got to live with them and that's just about it.

Q Well, I take it then, Mr. Neary, that generally your complaints are against the teenager, what we all have. Thank you very much, you may stand down.

MR. PATCHING:

Please join the club.

(Witness retired.)

GEORGE FREDERICK HURST, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Hurst, I gather that you were recruited in England to come here to Grande Cache as some of the preceding witnesses?

A That's true.

Q You are related to Mr. Bradbury?

A Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Farmer through marriage.

Q And where were you mining prior to coming here?

A Nottinghamshire.

Q Are you able to add anything, tell us anything in addition to what the other people have told us about things that were said to you when you were recruited?

A Not really, I went to a meeting, I think it was Derby.

Q With whom did you meet?

A With Cook.

Q Mr. Cook?

A It was for the mechanics as Mr. Farmer has already said and he

3-BB-41

G. F. Hurst - Stevenson Ex.

pointed out different aspects of the mine like, and showed some films of the opening of the mine. But apart from that I don't think there's anything more I can add to it.

Q Were you a long wall miner?

A I was a long wall miner.

Q Did you understand it would be long wall mining here?

A Yes.

Q And did you work in the long wall mining here?

A Yes.

Q When did you come here?

A November 25th I landed in Canada, 1970.

Q 19 -?

A '69.

Q So you were here at an early stage?

A Yes.

Q Could you add anything to what has been told to us about the current conditions in the operations of the underground mine?

A Regarding to the safety?

Q Basically, yes, all the working conditions and the mining conditions?

A Well, they are not exactly what I was led to believe.

Q What were you led to believe, sir?

A That it was modern mining and all the modern facilities regarding to roof support.

Q Is it not modern mining with the facilities regarding to roof support?

A Well, not in my way.

G. F. Hurst - Stevenson Ex.

Q What did you expect; or what would you expect?

A I expected a better method of timbering for a start. The mining, well, this is not the mining I was used to. We had to get used to this type of mining.

Q Do you think that the type of mining that you were familiar with would be more productive or more efficient than what is in fact being used?

A Yes, sir, I think it would be.

Q In what particulars, in what respect, in what way?

A Well, I'm going now with the production that come off Number 5, single ended shearer, when it was reasonably good. I think it took somewhere around about 30 to 40 minutes to go down a face, down the face and I think somewhere around about in the region say or well, four or five hundred ton of coal off. I may be wrong; I am only surmising the amount of coal off.

Q And what conclusions do you draw from that, Mr. Hurst?

A Well, if they could get the long wall system going and set up in the way that they could produce, I think we should take more coal out with that method instead of the continuous miners.

Q I see, now, what do you see as the - can you identify the particular improvement that you see or is it just the speed of production or efficiency?

A Well, I think it will be the speed of production really.

Q Did you work in Number 5?

A Yes.

Q And were you aware of the conditions which led to its closure?

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G. F. Hurst - Stevenson Ex.
- Patching Ex.

A All the conditions, I am aware of quite a number of them, that is the malpractices of some of the officials and also some of our own men, which I am sorry to say.

Q Could, from the miners' point of view, Number 5 have continued to be operated, could you continue to operate Number 5?

A Could it have got more coal out?

Q Yes?

A What, just prior to it closing?

Q Yes?

A Definitely.

Q Could it have been carried on for any length of time?

A Well, there was quite a number of districts open, but as you already know, the mines inspector had closed for mining until they had timbered up to the working faces, but once they timbered out to the working faces they got all that coal to come back on to. It may have been profitable in the finish.

Q It was from a miner's point of view, it could be done whether it was profitable is another question.

A Definitely it could be done.

MR. STEVENSON: Those are all the questions I have.

Would you answer Mr. Sabey, please?

MR. SABEY: I don't think I have any questions.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching do you have any questions?

MR. PATCHING EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Perhaps I could ask Mr. Hurst the same question that I asked Mr.

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G. F. Hurst - Patching Ex.

Neary. Do you think that long wall mining would have been successful here if it had been given a different trial?

A A different trial and the right guys that has had experience, not these eight-week boys that has training and then put them on. The eight-week boys, perhaps you have already heard of them; the trainees that they are sending us, red tags, they come on to an operation; they know very very, little about and they are classed as one man in the team.

Q Just as background, how long did you work in long wall in England?

A I have had 31 years mining; I went on the long wall with a shovel at the age of 18.

Q This is in the Midlands?

A In the Midlands.

Q Your ground conditions are quite a little different in the Midlands than they are in the mountains here, though, aren't they?

A The strata is quite a bit different, yes, but we were still mining, catching the roof coal same as has already been stated to give us a good roof.

Q Do you think the roof coal here is as strong as it is in the Midlands?

A Well, that I couldn't tell you because you have got to catch full bank, what we call a bank or face of coal and then it really hardens up, but until you have got a good hold of the coal to make the roof, it is just the same as any other.

G. F. Hurst - Patching Ex.
D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

Q What supports were being used in the Number 5, were those the Dowty or Fletcher Stewart?

A They were Fletcher Stewart.

Q Were they performing reasonably well?

A Well, no, they wasn't really performing very well at all. Just lower them off and they would fall down like a pack of dominoes.

Q Did you see the Dowty props in operation here?

A No, I didn't get a chance to go over and see the Dowty chocks.

MR. PATCHING: Thank you very much.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you very much, you may stand down.

(Witness retired.)

DAVID WINSTON PICKLES, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Pickles, you work in Grande Cache with McIntyre Porcupine?

A I do.

Q And I understand that you^{were}/recruited from Nova Scotia?

A No.

Q From where?

A From Yorkshire, England.

Q I'm sorry; I would like to ask you a couple of questions that I know. You were recruited from Yorkshire?

A Yes.

Q And you were engaged in underground mining in England?

A Yes.

Q And how long had you been engaged in underground mining?

D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

A 12 year.

Q Were you also then familiar with long wall mining?

A For 12 year, yes.

Q You have had 12 years experience then in various phases of long wall mining?

A Well, that's all they, you know.

Q All your work?

A All the work, in long wall.

Q Has any of that been retreating long wall?

A Yes.

Q Now, how did you happen to get in touch with McIntyre Porcupine, the recruiting people?

A I saw an advert in the Daily Mirror advertising for long wall miners, mechanics and electricians.

Q When did you see this ad?

A This would be what, about 1970.

Q And did you respond to it?

A I wrote a letter off to, it was Manpower. They was dealing with the letters, you know, to McIntyre hoping for interviews.

Q Hoping for interviews, asking for interviews?

A Yes, asking for interviews. I got a letter back about six week after I wrote saying that I, would I go to Leeds, that is in Yorkshire for interview with McIntyre's representatives about the job. I went there; I had an interview.

Q Who did you see?

A Well, I don't remember the names but they was personnel from

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D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

Toronto, two guys were from personnel from McIntyre's, from Toronto.

Q Yes, now, this was in 1970?

A 1970, yes.

Q When did you actually come?

A I arrived in Canada the 31st of December, 1972.

Q This last December?

A New Year's Day.

Q When did you become employed by McIntyre or when did you make your deal with McIntyre to come?

A Well, it's a long story is this. I applied for a job with McIntyre's in '70; I got turned down by McIntyre's, saying I had no experience on long wall faces. Yet I had ten years experience up to then on long wall. So I let it drop; I got a letter about a year after, 18 month, asking if I was still interested; I was. So I wrote back saying, yes, I was interested. So I had to have another interview with the personnel and I got the job.

Q Did you have another interview?

A Yes.

Q Where?

A Same place in Leeds.

Q With whom?

A Personnel again.

Q You don't remember the names?

A No, they were still from Toronto. You know, nobody from

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D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

Alberta or Grande Cache.

Q Was this '71 or '72?

A Late '71 I think.

Q Was there still then discussion about long wall mining?

A There was no other discussion with long wall mining.

Q You have heard evidence here about the conditions that were described to the people who were recruited in England. Was your experience any different; could you add anything to what we have been told?

A Well, I have done roof bolting back in England.

Q Pardon?

A I have done roof bolting, but the strata of the rock where I was bolting was a great deal better than what it is here.

Q But was there anything said to you about length of time you might expect to be employed in either of these interviews?

A Yes, when I come into Grande Cache, I was met by Jack Kilby. He took us for a meal and we was questioning the different aspects of mining in Grande Cache. And we asked him what was the life expectancy of this mine and he says to me, he says, "David, you got a little boy, haven't you?" "Sure," he said, "There is enough mining in here for you your boy and his sons."

Q This is after you got to Grande Cache?

A This was when I got into Grande Cache.

Q What was said to you in England?

A Fifteen year plus was hoping to get another fifteen to twenty-five year contract with Japan.

D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

Q And when did you actually make your arrangements with McIntyre to commit yourself to come?

A I made it in, what? Late '72 - no, excuse me, late '71.

Q About a year before you actually came?

A Yes.

Q And did you commit yourself then to come in '72 or was there some communication with you, to come in '72?

A Well, I was hoping to come in '72. I went for medicals, X-rays. I should have gone for immigration interview in Birmingham the Thursday; I got a telegram the Wednesday, McIntyre's in Grande Cache saying that they had their lapse in production. So would I reconsider not coming until a later date. So I just dropped everything.

Q Do I gather that you understood then that you could maybe come later?

A Yes, they said, if a position opens we'll give you the position and you will be able to come right out.

Q Were you then advised later and when were you advised?

A I was advised about six month later. I got a telegram again from McIntyre's asking me if I was still interested in the job, I said, yes. And I sent a telegram straight back accepting the job and I did.

Q When was that, in relation to when you came; you came in December when would that be?

A It would be between April and June, '72.

Q And was there any more communication between you and McIntyre

D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

until you actually came?

A Oh, yes, every week.

Q In what respect?

A Got letters, McIntyre's asking the reason why the delay. Why I wasn't coming you know, why I don't get my medicals through and interviews through with Immigration and different aspects of it.

Q What was the difficulty that you had with the roof bolting conditions that you encountered here?

A Well, in my opinion roof bolting is a false security in this sort of rock strata.

Q What mine were you working in?

A I was working in well, there are all long walls, faces.

Q No, but here, when you came here which mine did you go into?

A Number 2.

Q You are talking about the conditions in Number 2?

A Well, when I saw the conditions in 2 it disgusted me.

Q In what respect?

A Well, I had heard before this was the modernist mine in Canada. I thought oh, well, you know, it's not. I left a good place and went to another good place but when I saw the timbering, no way.

Q What was your particular criticism of the timbering?

A Well, we always would, what they call sets which is putting the timber to the roof with two props underneath.

Q Thank you.

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D. W. Pickles - Stevenson Ex.

A So if you got any weight besides holding the roof you got warning. In my opinion roof bolting isn't going to give you that warning.

Q That is the warning that we have been told about earlier?

A Yes.

Q Can you add anything to what we have already been told about the current safety conditions in the mine?

A Yes, mentioning no names, but I have worked on a crew recently where the fire boss was given a 5-day suspension for, how can I put it now? For misconduct.

Q Recently?

A Recently, within the last six week.

Q Management suspended him?

A Management suspended him, yes.

Q Do you expect them to do anything else other than exercise some discipline?

A Well, suspending him is not good enough in my opinion. I have to work under - I am supervised by that guy and if he is good enough to supervise me, he should be good enough to do his job in a good manner. And in my opinion he is not good enough to do his job in that manner.

Q Is this a specific man in a specific instance?

A In a specific district, yes.

Q Can you comment, add anything to what we have heard about the general situation?

A Well, from me coming in and starting at the third of January,

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- Sabey Cr.Ex.

the safety aspect, the aspects of safety is a lot better now, I think than it was.

Q But when you came in there was no long wall mining being done?

A No long wall mining at all.

MR. STEVENSON: Will you answer Mr. Sabey, please?

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Mr. Pickles, I am a bit confused, the delay from when you finally made your deal with McIntyre's to come over, that was in April or May, you said?

A Yes.

Q And you didn't come over until December?

A Yes.

Q During that delay McIntyre were continually writing and saying, why the delay?

A Yes.

Q So the delay was not McIntyre's; it was the --

A Yes, it was McIntyre's in one respect.

Q What respect was that, sir?

A The McIntyre's fault was a doctor in Edmonton, Dr. McVickers. He wanted all the X-rays and medicals. Well, I got a letter from McIntyre's telling me I had to go to Birmingham for these medicals for McIntyre's, not for Immigration. I went to Birmingham; I had to have a day off work. I went to see this doctor in Birmingham. I should have had X-ray full medical and a test, to see if I got dust in my lungs. I went in; I had this breathing test. I asked him, I said, "Is that all?" He

D. W. Pickles - Sabey Cr.Ex.

says, "Yes." Okay.

Q That was the doctor that told you that?

A Yes.

Q Fine?

A Yes.

Q Go ahead?

A I waited six week to two months. I said, "You know, you going to send for me like?" I got Immigration, Immigration is going to send for me. I got all Immigration finished with. I had a letter from McIntyre saying would I go back to Birmingham and have X-rays and medicals. If you wait, McIntyre's that pays it to this doctor in England about medicals.

Q I'm sorry, I didn't get that, McIntyre's what?

A McIntyre's appraised it to this doctor in England about medicals they just wanted this breathing. So I had to go back. About six weeks two month elapsed and little things, you know, put in another six weeks, two month, send the medicals off to get back. That's why, you know, the delay.

Q Mr. Pickles, when did you write this letter:

"Dear Mr. Kilby, I must apologize for all the delays, but you know as much as we do. I can't understand why it's been so long, they don't seem to know anything in Manchester, we can't get to know anything, except that the medical board in London, have asked for more information from family Dr. We rang Manchester to see if they had

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D. W. Pickles - Sabey Cr.Ex.

any information about it, and they said they knew nothing about it. I can't do nothing from this end until we hear from them. I went to the expense of getting passports to save time, but they are not very helpful. It is very frustrating for us, not knowing one way or another, we can't make any move until we get our papers. I think if you contacted them in Manchester, you might get better results than us, but I think it's just a matter of waiting for them to send us a date now, so I don't think it will be long. (I hope not) I think it's very good of you to keep the job open all this time, but we have done our best to speed things up, so it's not our fault it's been so long.

Yours truly, Mr. D.W. Pickles."

It doesn't have a date on it; do you know when you wrote that letter?

A May I look at it?

Q Sure.

A I couldn't tell you the exact date.

Q Roughly?

A Let me think, now; December - this would be what, July, August, September.

Q Last September?

A Last September.

Q Okay, fine, thank you.

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MR. SABEY: Do you want that letter marked?

MR. STEVENSON: Fine, you have read it, Mr. Sabey,
I don't think we need it.

Q MR. SABEY: One last question, Mr. Pickles, if
I understand you correctly you said that you thought that there
should be some other discipline to the supervisor who breached
the safety regulation?

A Yes.

Q What was it, a 5-day suspension?

A 5-day suspension.

Q What do you have in mind?

A Well, put it in - if I did the same thing or anything as bad
I would be down the road, they would fire me.

Q So is it your view that whether it is a workman or a safety
supervisor or a supervisor, pardon me, they should be fired?

A Well, if it is good enough for me --

Q Just a minute for breach of the safety regulations?

A Yes.

Q And would you fire Mr. Farmer for not putting in that support
properly?

A If the supervisor had done something equally as bad, yes.

Q But would you have fired workmen for doing that as well; what
sauce for the goose --

A What's good enough for the goose is good enough for the gander.

Q Yes, that's what I wanted.

A Yes.

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D. W. Pickles - Sabey Cr.Ex.

D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

MR. SABEY:

Thank you, I have no further

questions.

MR. CRUMP:

You may stand down.

A Thank you, sir.

(Witness retired.)

DEANE TOEWS, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Toews, you are here on behalf of the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce?

A That's correct, sir.

Q And I understand you are the manager of the Grande Prairie Chamber?

A That's right, as well as being the industrial coordinator for the City of Grande Prairie.

Q And I understand also that you are not only industrial coordinator for the City of Grande Prairie but also industrial coordinator for the County of Grande Prairie?

A That's right; I have lots of spare time.

Q And you have been in the capacity of manager of the Chamber for almost three years?

A Approximately two and eight months, yes.

Q And your background I understand is that you personally are a native of Grande Prairie except for war service that you have lived there pretty well all your life?

A No, I was, all of my life except for three years airforce duty but not war service, at the time of Korea.

Q I see, and prior to going with the Chamber you had been engaged in different employment including being in business

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for yourself?

A That is correct.

Q And the Chamber prepared a submission which you are actually the author of or you prepared?

A Yes.

Q And has that submission been filed with this Commission?

A Yes, it has.

Q And this is a copy of it, I understand?

A That is right.

MR. STEVENSON: We'll mark that as an exhibit, please.

GRANDE PRAIRIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUBMISSION MARKED EXHIBIT 12.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Toews, could you summarize for us what your Chamber sees as being the importance of a link in the form of a highway between Grande Cache and Grande Prairie

A Sir, if I might possibly answer this particular question with some points that I have put together since last evening, since arriving yesterday afternoon. Hopefully the thoughts that I have put together from last night to this morning pertaining to our brief and generalities that possibly the questions that you may or may not, hopefully or unhelpfully ask, will be answered. So just to beg your indulgence for a minute and a half or so, between what I have written and what I feel perhaps will, I thought maybe these questions could be answered and if there's any part of this submission that does require a question, well, I will be happy to answer it at that time.

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MR. STEVENSON:

I told Mr. Toews last evening that

I wanted him to summarize what he thought were the critical points for the consideration of the Commission.

A We, of the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce feel that the points we have raised are valid and very relevant. I sincerely believe that the points we have put together in this submission are the sentiments of the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce and indirectly so the feelings of the City of Grande Prairie and as well, the county. I should say, not the county, they have different feelings on this. So I'll keep my remarks to the City and the Chamber. When we first took a look at the particular requirements or terms of reference for the Commission we picked the two points where we felt Grande Prairie could have some involvement here and as we have heard and as I have been sitting listening, there was a case of likelihood and we thought maybe we should stretch it and put it over to one side and maybe talk motherhood for a while.

The purpose of our submission was to carry two points in the terms of reference with regard to a course of action for the future government policies and programs for the Community of Grande Cache to be more stable and more viable and also, number 2, the undertakings and commitments made by previous governments if there were which could involve drawing on public funds in the future. So these two points we felt that were something that we could get involved with in Grande Prairie. With regard to number one, the course of

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action suggested by Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce is the construction of an all weather paved highway link from Highway 16 through Grande Cache, north to Grande Prairie, connecting with Highway No. 2 on a designated highway called No. 40. Now, number 2, what direction should it take? Now at this particular point in time we cannot find any fault with the technical aspects of ^{the} highway study which Mr. Dilinsky has done.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Let me interrupt, Mr. Toews, you are referring to the Provincial Government's Highway Study --

A Yes.

Q -- which has been marked as an exhibit. This document which has been marked Exhibit 6 in these proceedings and you don't find any fault with the technical facts that are in that exhibit?

A That is correct; however, we do question the seven million dollar difference mentioned, that is the difference of the cost of the road running through Grande Cache and running east of Grande Cache. I would say that at this time, how do you put a price tag - I won't ask the question, I'll state it, that a price tag can't really be put on the psychological and isolational type of feelings that would be alleviated if the road were built, to the people of Grande Cache. And I think very sincerely that where you have been dealing with the removal of non-renewable resources up until this time, coal that has particular problems that are evident here, but I feel that you are also dealing with a more sensitive, more important

renewable resource, people. That to me I think is a key.

Why the highway through Grande Cache?

Well, possibly a year ago if the people here in Grande Cache will remember that Grande Prairie and the Chamber said that we would like to have the road from Grande Prairie to Highway 16. We would like to have it the shortest way because it is going to cost less money. I would have to say that that is silly because we - it is a selfish attitude and I think probably everybody is selfish in one direction or the other. However, since that time our outlook is a little broadened. We have raised another 1400 people in our city; we are now over 15,000. So we feel now that with the passage of the highway through Grande Cache to Grande Prairie that we can if you want to coin a phrase, kill four birds with one stone. Number one to alleviate the present problems that are in Grande Cache, hopefully; number two to provide an outlet for Northwestern Alberta to the West Coast and a link from Grande Prairie south, and Grande Prairie District, south over this highway to the Western Coast and of course the Pacific market. And more, number four, tourist dollars in the coffers of the province. So what we have done here we have looked at it in four directions, selfishly, yes, for Grande Prairie. What it can do for Grande Cache, what it can do for Northwestern Alberta and what it can do for the whole province so that the fellow in Manyberries in Southern Alberta is going to say, "Well, why should I spend money on that road because it is not doing me

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any good." Now, if anybody here comes from Manyberries I apologize but that was the first name that I came up with. He is justified in saying, "Why should I spend a dollar on that road?" And I think with the tourist aspect that would come out of this that the dollars will intangibly probably go into the big pot if you want to call it that way. I might mention that I returned yesterday from Camrose where the Alberta Annual Chamber meeting was in process. I represented one of five delegates and it may not be known to the Commission at this time because I have the scratch copy here and it hasn't been printed as such but the policy passed by the entire meeting at that particular annual meeting of all the Chambers of Commerce of Alberta was that the highway from Highway 16 north to Grande Cache, through Grande Cache, north to Grande Prairie or to a point in the near vicinity of Grande Prairie on Highway 2, should fall in the same category as - and the same priority as the highway to Fort McMurray and the highway to the McKenzie or the McKenzie Highway. This was passed I might add, I didn't look around to see if it was unanimous but it was passed with not many dissenting votes. So any other areas that we felt that pertained to the highway from Grande Cache to Grand Prairie are contained in the brief and they have been mentioned in a small portion. The tourism aspect we have touched on; the health and medical situation is in the form of a letter from a doctor who formerly was in Grande Cache, stating his views and it's in the brief. Suffice it is for me to say that he has some

very good ideas. The educational aspect with a current building of the Regional College in Grande Prairie, we feel there is an aspect here that could be touched and poured into Grande Cache. With providing some of these tentative university students in Grande Prairie. And like it says in the brief, 90 miles is a lot closer than 250. The services we have touched on and I think probably the Grande Cache people will touch on that whenever they come up on this particular Hearing. But the closeness of possible perishables, warehouses of food and the various products etcetera that we have in Grande Prairie, here again I say selfishly so that the road should go to Grande Prairie. But I think we can do two things here, do something for Grande Cache and something for Grande Prairie both. The other areas have been touched on in the brief, entertainment cultural activities, recreation and what have you. We also have teenagers up there that don't find things to do but we hope that maybe between the two places we can give them something.

In regards to tourism, Grande Prairie feels that this is a viable second industry for Grande Cache and we think it is a viable industry for Northern Alberta. They have recently divided the whole province on the north into three zones as they feel this is the right direction and there is more to be gained by having three zones working for tourism than one. Number one, I think, with respect to Grande Cache, the "Adjacentness" if that is a word, to the

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Willmore Wilderness Park. Conceivably number two, a Provincial Park built next to this Willmore Wilderness where you have got the two aspects. You have got the commercial park and you have got a wilderness park. People like both; some people like one and some people like the other.

I reiterate again it is an outlet for Northern Albertans to go to Grande Cache, through Grande Cache to Jasper and the other way around. We have got Americans by the score who go to Alaska or they come from Alaska and there's no reason why they can't go through Grande Cache and Grande Prairie. So that's another area. The formation of circle tours, we talked that at the Tri-Alta Conference in Banff last year and again this year. In - I forget what it was, I have been to so many this year, but the circle tour aspect has been bandied around. It is something that is gaining a great deal of favour.

With regard to Item No. 2 we mentioned commitments of the former government. We have in the brief a letter that was written in 1970 I believe.

Q The letter of October 16th, 1970, by the Honourable Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, is that --

A No, November 3rd, 1970, from the Honourable Premier Mr. Strom to Mr. Cannon the president of Proctor and Gamble.

There are four paragraphs and I would say they have done 50 percent so far which is very good. The number two paragraph, the Gold Creek Road is passable and it

is gravelled. They have put the bridge over the Wapiti and have improved the road from the Wapiti to Grande Prairie. However, there is two other parts in here; one is where they say to construct a highway, it is the intention of the Government and this is just reiteration, it is the intention of the Government to construct a highway on the west side of the Smoky between Grande Prairie and the Grande Cache area to connect it with the highway presently under construction from Entrance North etcetera. Ultimately to pave the entire highway from Entrance North.

Q Can you say to me that anywhere you can find a Provincial Government commitment that the highway will go through Grande Cache?

A No, I have to honestly say that the actual letters did not say through Grande Cache. We like to think that these promises were made. It may be the timing and it hasn't been clarified or anything like this, but I would point out that prior to closing, that we have got two directions here; that if the highway was built as Grande Prairie suggests it might be built from Highway 16 to Grande Prairie that the resulting tourist dollars, intangible as they may be, it is pretty hard to put a finger on a tourist dollar, they would effect all Albertans, not just a few people involved in this country. On the other side of the coin, if the highway wasn't built and here I'll have to be a little pessimistic. I am not normally pessimistic but you might as well throw a little pessimism in on the side. Conceivably the New Town of Grande Cache would disappear I

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believe I am wrong in saying that and it could be drastic, however we have got ghost towns in Alberta now, always a little bit of a spectre on the horizon. The effect on all of Albertans to the loss of a large investment like we have here in Grande Cache, there again the figure I am unaware of. The actual investment would probably be an intangible thing but the actual dollars that have been and are being spent are tangible items. So that just the closing item and then I'll have your questions, sir. But were the Commission and the Government were to decide tomorrow morning, "We'll build the highway," the problems of Grande Cache are not going to be gone tomorrow morning. That is going to take two years for all the things that we say or what the highway people say that build a highway these days. These problems I am trying to say are not going to disappear tomorrow morning because somebody says, "Yes, we are going to build a highway." The problems will still be there until such time as it is built and for this particular reason, the other two prongs of our brief says, "We strongly suggest that with regular maintenance on the Forestry Trunk Road from here, Grande Cache, to Grande Prairie, arriving in Grande Prairie 30 miles to the east should be constantly upgraded until such time as someone in their infinite wisdom decides that maybe we have got a good idea." Thank you.

Q I gather that what you suggest that as an interim measure the Forestry Road be adequately maintained but as a long term

measure the highway should go through Grande Cache?

A Yes.

Q Now, Mr. Toews, your Chamber has changed its position from that that it took immediately following release of the Highway Study?

A That's right.

Q Can you now support a highway through Grande Cache?

A Well that would be so; I think the whole city has probably - I haven't got the minutes with me but I know that they reiterate the fact that the highway when it comes through should go through Grande Cache.

Q Now, there is indicated substantial extra cost for that?

A Yes, we appreciate that if Mr. Dilinsky's report is true and we believe that he has the right knowledge.

Q Some of the things you mentioned, the links, could be provided through a highway with a junction to Grande Cache; that is the services, the medical assistance, the educational assistance could be provided in that way?

A That aspect of providing a service, yes, to drive an extra seven miles to get to the college I don't suppose it would be that much of a hardship; that angle I would have to agree with. So it comes down to your saying that this highway could do something of economic benefit to Grande Cache if it came through it?

A Yes, definitely.

Q And you put that in the area of tourism including this as a tourist centre and this as a service centre or stopping off

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D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

place?

A Yes.

Q Tell me this, what case can you make in dollar terms for the benefit as a stopping off place or can you measure that or can you tell us how to measure it?

A If I knew I would probably be the Honourable Minister of Tourism I imagine. I don't think you can really put a figure on that particular price. I think it would have to be an intangible. I would like to assume that the current government has ways and means and they have consultants and people that could do this kind of study. Now, what kind of time it would take, I don't know, but I think it has to be a figure that could be projected somewhere.

Q Do you have any feeling of confidence from your experience that this kind of highway would generate business in an area like Grande Cache lying as it is roughly midway between two centres, the Highway 16 and Grande Prairie?

A Oh, yes, I can harken back to the day when it came spring and came fall, you didn't go out of Grande Prairie anywhere because we had to go across two ferries. So they built two bridges and now you can go in there all the year around and I think that has to be a prime indicator of what happens when you do something for a town where you can get people in and out or through or going by.

Q Can you measure the benefit or make a case before us in dollar terms for development of people coming here as a tourist centre?

D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

A I'm afraid I can't; not an actual dollar figure. I would want to have some measure of time. I don't really - I can see the Government's direction here in saying, "Well, why should we build it; what is it going to get us back in dollars?" I don't think you can measure it that way.

Q Can you make a case by saying to us that there is seven million dollars benefit?

A I think probably this seven million dollars is a figure that you - there are various - how do you measure terms of people and feelings and the fact of not being able to go directly or people coming through, how do you measure it in dollars? I don't think you can do this. Maybe somewhere - I know it's beyond my credentials.

Q I understand your case is made on the expectation --

A I believe so.

Q -- that would be of value and that expectation is based not on the dollar and cents assessment but on judgment, experience?

A I would say it would have to be a judgment. Maybe to raise another nasty thing; there was a particular transportation unit was built once before with the idea of it being a resource to extricate or build something to resources. It went down the tube below Sheep Creek whatever it was if that is the place but this means you couldn't really measure the dollars that you would get from that railroad if we could coin a phrase, a railroad. It had to be a railroad that was developed to open up country to the north and by putting this highway from

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D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

16 to 2 opening up the North again or the Northwest - like I mentioned also, kill an extra bird with one stone this is something Grande Cache is going to hinge on as far as industry is concerned. Tourism apparently is number 3 and number 2. There's no reason why the hindsight that the Province has on tourism with what it has done in the last five or six years, why can't it do the same in the next five years for Grande Cache?

Q Do you envisage people from the Peace River Country coming here to stay for a few days?

A From what I hear, what I have seen - I have been here three or four times, I could see a mass exodus practically, especially when you have Pierre Gray Lakes to the south and you start developing the area. We don't have mountains in Grande Prairie; they don't have mountains in Peace River either.

Q What is the population of that block?

A Well, we like to say that the trading area of Grande Prairie is 65,000. The entire population of the Peace River block which would include Peace River Town, Manning, down to High Prairie and west is about 88,000 I believe, 88 to 90,000 people. The census division 15 - I'm sorry, I don't remember.

Q Do you have people from Grande Prairie in that area which is a substantial area coming down here as a centre for weekends or for short holiday stays, would they require the expenditure of further monies to establish some other attractions or facilities, other facilities other than are here now?

D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

A Mind you, I have not driven around Grande Cache to see the facilities that are here. The ones that I have seen like the skating rink and the curling or the swimming pool and the motels, I can see extra dollars being spent here to build something for a person when he gets here. And also like I say utilizing the lakes that are here. I think out of - we also on the side run a tourist bureau in Grande Prairie and we have, I suppose, out of five tourists that come into Grande Prairie, four and a half of them will say, "Where can we go to fish?" Well, we can't go fishing in Grande Prairie because we don't have any. We have got jackfish in Sturgeon Lake but I don't think people like that. But from what I hear around here and I saw examples last night, there are fish within 20 miles and people from south of the border who we get a lot of will spend an extra day and travel an extra hundred miles for even just the fishing industry.

Q Do you envisage the continuation of this highway as being the completion of the promised highway paralleling No. 2 as mentioned in your brief or this is the original commitment or promise in 1961 and in 1966 that there would be a highway paralleling No. 2; do you see this highway as -

A Yes, the Grande Prairie Chamber firmly believe this and that the last year meeting at the Tri-Alta, we talked with the Honourable Minister Bob Dowling and we shared the same feeling that this highway be called a vacation trail or whatever you want to call it will parallel Highway 2 from Grande Prairie

D. Toews - Stevenson Ex.

south to Waterton Lakes, I guess or Kanaskis.

Q Assuming that you can make a case for a highway and making it through Grande Cache, can you make one for giving it any special priority?

A I think that I have touched on the priority. I think the highway has to be something that is going to be doing something for Grande Cache too - as we read in here things are kind of quasi. So I would say the priority of that particular highway is about as high on the list as you want to come. I would say it is on there before the McKenzie Highway is because like I mentioned these problems that are here today in Grande Cache and the uncertainty of a second industry and maybe losing a first industry or whatever the case may be. This has to be a tomorrow thing and my Chamber says that too.

Q What I am saying to you, we are dealing with a highway budget; obviously there are questions of priority. The case you make for priority is the urgency here?

A I believe so, we're not just putting in a highway to make resources accessible or bring more tourists down back and forth. I think we are dealing with a live living town that has got 3,000 or 2500 people whatever it is. This has got to be a prime factor.

MR. STEVENSON:

I think those are all the questions

that I have, Mr. Toews.

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D. Toews - Sabey Cr.Ex .

MR. SABEY CROSS-EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q I have one question, Mr. Toews, I noticed one of the supporting documents to your brief is a letter from Mr. Scott of the Daily Herald Tribune which is your Grande Prairie newspaper -

A Yes.

Q Page 4 of that letter says and I quote:

The Journal, the CBC T.V. tend to stress the problems, the negatives of Grande Cache at any time they do a story and they only do stories on major issues usually involving the McIntyre Porcupine Mine ills. They do not provide which the Herald Tribune would, other news on such things as sports days, award nights, education and health and life which would be of direct interest to the town.

Does your Chamber of Commerce support that?

A We find that any time and probably if you are a watcher of CBC Hourglass and we have a few problems in Grande Prairie too, we have found and I think out of 15 news items I would stand on this table and say that 13 of them are usually never in the best interests of Grande Prairie.

MR. SABEY: Mr. Chairman, I ask that question with due respect to Mr. Thompkins, who unfortunately seems to have got --

MR. STEVENSON: I was going to accuse Mr. Sabey of making formal noises.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching, do you have any questions

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D. Toews - Crump Ex.

MR. PATCHING:

No, I think not.

MR. CRUMP EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Well, I have only one or two Mr. Toews, I take it from your evidence that in the report that we discussed of the Department of Highways --

A Yes.

Q -- and the two routes there they eliminated number two and listed in the report and consider number one and number three. Number one roughly follows the main highway now and I am in the same position that you are bearing in mind that I don't live here and I have to rely on what I am told. As I recollect the branch line comes in from Muskeg Creek into Grande Cache. Route number three so given in the report it was generally up the west side of the Smoky River and would go through the Town of Grande Cache. Some estimates are given on capital costs and maintenance which have been quoted here today, quoted roughly, seven million dollars. In your opinion do you feel that that seven million dollars would be warranted in taking the route number three rather than route number one?

A The number three being the one through Grande Cache in other words?

Q According to the report.

A Yes, well, we, the Grande Prairie Chamber and the City Council have felt this, like I mentioned, since we originally thought that maybe the lowest price route may be the one that might stand a chance of getting through because they were fairly dollar conscious at that time and we thought maybe they want the

highway but possibly they will only spend 20 where they might not spend 27. So this was our thinking. I admit it was fairly selfish on that aspect; we wanted the highway, but since that time which is probably a year and a half ago, we have had like I mentioned these other thoughts and the seven million dollars, I think you could probably - I don't know where a person would raise it if they were that short but I think it has to be worth the dollars but I don't know how you measure it in people, the seven million dollars they would have to spend.

Q The study of the Department of Highways doesn't measure it in dollars, they say that very frankly in the beginning, only in technical dollars of physical construction.

A Yes.

Q In your moment of pessimism you spoke if I got you correctly, you said that if the highway is not built as you suggested it could conceivably result in the disappearance of this town. Is that your considered opinion?

A It is a pessimistic conceivable opinion in that --

Q This is your pessimistic conceivable opinion?

A Yes, right.

Q Thank you and now --

A But --

Q One other point, you feel that the expenditure on the present Forestry Road if it were decided to build say Route number three and there is again, Mr. Court Reporter, the lead time, that the expenditure on the Forestry Road in the meantime would be economically justified?

D. Toews - Crump Ex.

A I believe so because the problems are not going to wait for two years to be solved while the road is being built. As we have it in our brief, these things that we are suggesting would be a tomorrow morning type thing, but tomorrow morning doesn't happen with the Department of Highways and I sometimes wonder whether it doesn't happen longer than that but that is my own side opinion. I feel sure and my Chamber feel sure and I know that the City would back me up on this if they were here. The number of dollars up to a reasonable amount, I'm not a highway engineer and I don't know what they cost with grading and maintaining this but the regular maintenance of that highway or that Forestry Trunk Road from here to Grande Prairie would have to have all kinds of benefits, not only to Forestry for looking after their trees but tourists will drive on a gravel road if they have to. They might not like it but if they can see something down in the future where maybe the next time they come by it's going to be paved, I think they might. Nobody wants to go through to Grande Cache and spend two days on the road.

MR. CRUMP:

Thank you, Mr. Toews, you can stand down.

A Thank you.

MR. CRUMP:

Anything further before we close?

(Witness retires.)

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M. Miller - Stevenson Ex.

MARGARET MILLER, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mrs. Miller, you are here on behalf of the Alberta Youth Hostels Council, is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q You have filed a submission with this Commission and this is a copy of that submission I understand?

A Yes, that is right.

MR. STEVENSON: May we enter that as an exhibit?

It is Exhibit No. 13. Don't let that bother you.

SUBMISSION FROM THE ALBERTA YOUTH
HOSTELS COUNCIL, MARKED EXHIBIT 13.

Q MR. STEVENSON: You prepared that brief, Mrs. Miller,
or --

A I prepared it and then the Council re-arranged it a bit,
edited it.

MR. CRUMP: I would ask you, Mrs. Miller, if you
would speak up so that not only the Reporter can hear you but
we all can.

A Certainly.

Q MR. STEVENSON: I understand that the Council is the
coordinating body between various, between two regional youth
hostel councils?

A Yes, the Canadian Youth Hostels Association in Alberta has two
main regions, a mountain region and a northwest region and the
Council was set up to do the negotiating and coordinating for
them.

Q And I understand that these hostels are operated essentially

3-BB-77

M. Miller - Stevenson Ex.

on a non-profit basis?

A Absolutely non-profit.

Q And this is the organization that operates the hostels that we are familiar with in the two national parks?

A Yes.

Q And I take it that so far those have been self-sufficient?

A Yes, they have; there are 53 hostels in Canada. The ones in the parks are operating are self-sustaining on an operating basis. They have some little help from the Parks Department for maintenance.

Q And I understand that your main approach that you have made a major approach, that is now prepared for the Hearings into the development of the eastern slopes of the Rockies?

A M-hm.

Q Yes?

A Yes, there are 30, no, 29 hostels proposed for the whole eastern slopes area. 14 for fairly soon development and the rest for later on.

Q Grande Cache falls into the fairly soon?

A Grande Cache falls into the very soon it will be a very vital link in this chain being such a beautiful area.

Q You have provided reference in your brief to proposals for education and recreation brochure which you have filed with the Commission?

A Yes.

Q And I understand that your major, you are making your major

3-BB-78

M. Miller - Stevenson Ex.

submission to the Environmental Conservation authority?

A Yes, we were.

Q And the Commission has read your brief, available to us and I understand that you say with respect to these Hearings that you propose building a hostel in this Town?

A M-hm.

Q Yes?

A Yes.

Q And that hostel would be financed in a couple of different ways. One by a grant of land to the organization or a long term free lease and you would expect governmental assistance of some kind for capital development?

A Yes, it is the capital costs, the initial development of the hostel and yes, we have made two suggestions how to handle. Either lease an existing building in the Town or that C.Y.H.A. come up with one-third of the cost to construct a new building and look for assistance from the three levels of government for the other two-thirds.

Q And this is a pitch you are going to make for the whole of your chain of youth hostels?

A Yes.

Q What benefit do you see for a youth hostel in Grande Cache?

A Well, I think it is a three fold, rather diverse three fold benefit to Grande Cache. Of course, we are very interested in having a chain of hostels and Grande Cache is a vital link in our chain. The primary purpose of the eastern slopes proposal

is that school groups are sort of on the move and a place like Grande Cache would be a very admirable sort of place for school groups to come to to study not only the natural environment and geology and geography and things like that but also the mining operation and a very unique town development, that is one thing. This would mean of course that the awareness of the Town will be widespread throughout Alberta initially and then across Canada. We do see these groups coming from quite far afield to the mountains. The second one is the Town itself as a community service and involvement for the program, a hostel in the Town would provide an added dimension to the well, recreational and educational life of the Town and it would of course be run by Grande Cache people so it would evolve in ways most suited to the needs of the Grande Cache people but the ones in Edmonton for instance and all across the country especially the ones in towns well, the individual members get cycling clubs and hiking clubs and skiing clubs and many active groups of people who like outdoor things and this is the way that they get together and form these clubs, arrange trips to go out. We have in Edmonton weekly meetings for instance where we have guest speakers who come and talk about oh, how to wax cross country skis, and the best way to get up a mountain, what kind of boots to buy, this sort of thing and very well attended mostly. And we have also found that being a member particularly a Canadian youth hostel, I am advised, it is excellent training for young people in getting to know outdoors and to understand

M. Miller - Stevenson Ex.

it. I feel that it, the outdoors is getting to be an alien place, you know. We need to get to know it a little better. Now, the third issue I think is that having a hostel in Grande Cache of course then people would become members; it costs \$10 a year and this membership card is a passport to something like 4800 hostels throughout the world in 45 countries where they would meet people of like interests for a very small amount of money and good accommodation with the kind of people that you sort of have interests with. And of course the hostel would be listed in our Canadian handbook and also the international handbook which is spreading an awareness of the Town both in Canada and abroad. And of course the address is available to people who want to come or for people who are coming from abroad to Canada.

Q Do you see the hostel also as attracting tourists here to it and to other facilities?

A I certainly see them attracted to the hostel initially because this is the address listed and then having got here, you know, you have people here and they will see what there is to see and do what there is to do.

Q So there would be a public relations element?

A Yes, I think so.

MR. STEVENSON: Those are all the questions I have.

A Thank you.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Sabey?

MR. SABEY: No thank you, Mr. Chairman.

M. Miller - Patching Ex.

MR. PATCHING EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q Perhaps I might just ask is it customary for those travelling to youth hostels to do so on foot or bicycle or do you accept travellers coming in by car; would they compete with a motel?

A Oh, no, no, they cater to an entirely different sort of people, type of people. I stay in hostels and I also stay in hotels but I stay in hostels when I am climbing and hiking like this. I stay in hotels if I am travelling a different sort of thing. Mostly of course they would be youth and youth are just not in the market to go to motels they just can't afford it; they just wouldn't travel.

Q Would any subsidy be needed to keep the hostel in operation or would they be self-sustaining?

A From past experience they are completely self-supporting. Maybe initially - no, I don't think there would be any need. They are supported by overnight fees which are a dollar or so and membership fees and sale of, you know, specialized items for outdoor type people. I don't see there would be any need for any form of support.

Q Would any other developments be needed in Town to provide things of interest for these hostellers?

A Well, --

Q The construction of trails, this sort of thing?

A Oh, yes, but this would - the thing about C.Y.H.A. is that members do tend to be self sufficient and tend to be self motivated so they would probably want to make trails; I would think they would want to make trails. This has happened in

M. Miller - Patching Ex.

other places.

MR. PATCHING:

That's all, thank you.

MR. CRUMP:

Well, thank you for coming, Mrs.

Miller, you can stand down.

(Witness retires.)

MR. STEVENSON:

That's all, sir.

MR. CRUMP:

This Hearing stands adjourned until

9:30 tomorrow morning.

Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.

PROCEEDINGS before The Board of
Commissioners at Council Chamber,
Town of Grande Cache, Province
of Alberta, commencing at 9:30
a.m. Friday, June 15th, A.D. 1973.

MR. CRUMP: The meeting, come to order, please.

Mr. Stevenson would you produce your first witness?

MR. STEVENSON I would like to recall Arthur
Bradbury; Mr. Bradbury come to the stand.

ARTHUR BRADBURY, under his former oath, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Bradbury, you are recalled to clarify a point that arose in
evidence yesterday. Do you understand that you are still under
oath?

A Yes, sir.

Q Mr. Bradbury, yesterday, Mr. Pickles made a statement about an
incident involving a fire boss and there was some question of
the appropriate disciplining of him for some misconduct on his
part.

A Yes, sir.

Q I believe you wanted to tell the Commission the extent of that
misconduct in order to throw light on the reason that it was
felt that some particularly serious punishment ought to be
imposed, is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q And as I told you before, we are not here to investigate safety

Q (continued) incidents or to deal with the conduct of individuals but because you raised this point and because it may have left some misunderstanding, we are happy to have you outline the extent of that misconduct if you want to do so.

A Yes, sir; well, I can't quote the situations as they arose but in context, the fire boss concerned, the safety officer, Raymond Powers, on one occasion went on to his district and made him put a "no road" sign behind the miner where him and his men had cut approximately about 60 to 80 feet without rib posting which was a contravention of the Act. On another occasion, the following shift reported him for leaving an unsafe area, on an occasion where it was supposed to pre-shift the mine, within four hours of the previous shift going to work so that entry to the mine was then legal, all his reports appeared from approximately 6:15 to 7:30, which not only was it outside the legal time limit for these reports but there was no way that we could see that one man could be in this many places at one time or in the time allowed by the full reports about five districts concerned; to cover them districts and make an adequate report. Also this man boxed in an electrical transformer which meant there was no intake air which is completely in contravention of the law and this could have, and we believe from statements by the men on the job at the time, did in fact allow a quantity of methane gas, fire damp as we call it, an explosive gas, to accumulate in this area. I should like to add that prior to him being suspended for these few days we had been in the office with

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Arthur Bradbury - Stevenson Ex.
- Martland Ex.

A (continued) management over this particular man and we as a Union had stated that if they didn't control him more thoroughly then we as a Union, would take other action to make sure he was controlled. The next incident arose and subsequently they did suspend him for about five days. I thought this should be made quite clear it was not an isolated incident.

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Bradbury, any questions?

MR. CRUMP: Any questions, Mr. Martland?

MR. MARTLAND EXAMINED THE WITNESS:

MR. MARTLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Q MR. MARTLAND: Mr. Bradbury, who was the person involved?

A Horst Sandkuhler.

Q Were you personally there when these incidents arose?

A No, I wasn't but I was personally there when we met them in the office, the management, and they accepted as fact what we said. There was no denial.

Q And this was through your role in the Safety Committee?

A And executive member; there was other things going on at the same meeting.

MR. MARTLAND: No further questions, thank you.

MR. STEVENSON: No re-examination, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you for coming again, Mr.
Bradbury; you may stand down.

A Thank you.

(The Witness Retired.)

MR. CRUMP: Will you commence with the normal witness now?

MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Didow, will you come up, please?

ALEX DIDOW, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Didow, you are one of the representatives of the Grande Cache Chamber of Commerce, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q And that Chamber provided us with a brief submission to this Commission, is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q I gather that it was a joint effort the preparation of it?

A Yes, it was, sir.

Q And is this a copy of the submission?

A Yes, sir, I can make comment that we didn't put a heading on it like I have seen other briefs. The other comment I would like to make is there is a correction on page 6 and, in that it should state 162,000 acres.

Q There is a blank on page 6 and the number to be inserted in the blank which is in the seventh or eighth line, is 162,000 acres?

A That's correct, sir.

Q I would like to enter the brief as Exhibit number 14.

SUBMISSION OF THE GRANDE CACHE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE, MARKED EXHIBIT 14.

Q MR. STEVENSON: I understand, Mr. Didow, that the Chamber has arranged to put forward a group of witnesses to deal with different aspects of the brief, is that correct?

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A That's right, sir.

Q And your responsibility is to make some of the introductory comments and to deal to some extent with the question of transportation, is that correct?

A That's right, sir.

Q And this Chamber, Mr. Didow, consists of how many members?

A Our - maybe I can - can I elaborate a little on that? To tell you when the Chamber started?

MR. CRUMP: Very shortly; will you please answer the questions?

A Yes, very shortly, sir. Well, the Grande Cache Chamber of Commerce started on January 26th, 1970. And with the membership that I had, do not know, and I have searched the records, I could not get them. However, at the present time our Chamber has 53 members. And I would also like to at this time take the opportunity to say that the Native Area Committee who have been heard are a member of our Chamber and have molded very well within our Chamber.

Q Well, Mr. Didow, you personally are a businessman, is that correct?

A Yes, I am, I am the manager of a business shop in Town.

Q How long have you been in Grande Cache?

A I arrived in Grande Cache on March 15th, 1970, with my wife Dorothy and four small boys from the small town in Northern Alberta called Rycroft, Alberta. I might insert, the hub of the Peace. Since then we have even added another member to our

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A (continued) family who was born in Grande Cache.

Q And were you in business in Ryecroft?

A No, sir, I was the secretary-treasurer of the community for eight years. Previous to that I spent two years in the Town of Spirit River as secretary and before that I was the hospital accountant for The Holy Cross Hospital at Spirit River, which is really a glorified bookkeeping job you might say. Before that I just have to say this, sir, but I worked with the Northern Alberta Railways in Northern Alberta and one town that I could bring in here is Waterways and for that reason I want to bring in Fort McMurray somewhere along the line it fits in.

MR. CRUMP: I think, Mr. Stevenson, the witness is saying that we both have a conflict in our past.

A What I am saying is that I think you paid me somewhere along the line.

MR. STEVENSON: All right, now, Mr. Didow, can your submission by way of an introduction to your submission you dealt with some history of the development and your views that there are some misunderstandings that could be present. Do you want to elaborate on that, the introductory part of your brief, highlight the introductory part of your brief?

A Yes, I wonder - there are three paragraphs I would like to read, sir, from the introduction and they are very short and I just --

MR. CRUMP: By all means.

A You don't mind if I do?

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

MR. CRUMP: Not at all.

A I have taken it sort of out of context but maybe not directly.

MR. CRUMP: May I say, Mr. Didow, that the witnesses in this hearing may either stand or sit.

A I would sooner stand, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Well, by all means do so.

A Well, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Crump Commission, if I may take from context of our presentation three paragraphs which are not too lengthy and that I feel should be expressed here today. I would like to express on behalf of our Chamber of Commerce that one of our prime aims here today is to express hope that the feelings of more than 100,000 people in Northern Alberta, Jasper, Hinton, Edson, Grande Cache, in respect to their express need for a highway, a transportation link between The New Town of Grande Cache and Northern Alberta, be illustrated here today, that has been illustrated in the preceding days.

"We would hope that the aspirations of these 100,000 people can be transformed into tangible terms to encourage our government to commit itself to the goal of extending Highway 40 ..."

Which is shown on the 1973 Alberta Government Road Map going through the Town of Grande Cache into Northern Alberta, more precisely Grande Prairie.

Our Chamber submits our presentation, sir, trusting that it will be given every consideration in your

Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A (continued) deliberations and findings and regard it, and I seriously and sincerely say that, it is our sincere desire by our community to seek out long and short-term solutions to our development problems, sir.

Those are the three paragraphs.

MR. CRUMP:

Thank you.

Q MR. STEVENSON What other points do you want to deal with if you lead on from that introduction, Mr. Didow?

A Probably, sir, as regards to misconceptions; I would like to state here today that the misconceptions that are circulating within the Province of Alberta and maybe it even goes further than that are not true. For instance, the residents of the Town of Grande Cache are paying dearly for every modern service that is being provided and I think that - we don't mind paying for them, that no exorbitant grants have been made to The New Town of Grande Cache that haven't been made to other communities or other new towns in the province. What I'm saying here is that we are all on the same footing.

I don't see a McIntyre representative, oh, there is a McIntyre representative. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the firm of McIntyre Porcupine in being so generous, not only to their people but people like myself and my family and to all the other residents in this very nice community for contributing such large sums to the most wonderful recreation complex that we have here and a most vital part of our community, the local hospital.

A (continued) To my knowledge, sir, The New Towns Act allows for the repayment of interest on capital borrowings and not principle until such time as the community becomes economically self-sufficient and sound in municipal government terms which I refer to here as a sound assessment base and I need not elaborate on this because assessment means taxes.

In my travels through the province we, I would get feed-back that "everything is being handed to you on a silver platter," and I don't know how this got to the people, whether it is by publicity probably to an extent but the fact that I would like to make clear here is that we never got anything on a silver platter, we are paying for it through our taxes. And I would conclude there with regards to misconceptions.

Q All right, now, you don't take any exception to the evidence we have had as to the extent of provincial investment in this community?

A No, no, sir.

Q And your own brief to the Energy Resources Conservation Board pointed out that there was \$80 million spent in the mine, \$35 million on the power plant, \$100 million on the railroad, \$6 million on roads and \$10 million roughly, in the Town itself. Would those figures be roughly correct?

A I would say they would be roughly correct and that part of it is private investment.

Q Yes, then, Mr. Didow, are you going to deal with the transportation aspects of your submission?

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A Yes, sir, that falls upon me as I am the director in charge of transportation within the Chamber of Commerce and it is my responsibility, my responsibility in that department, is highways and I have taken the liberty of breaking down my department into two departments, highways, airports and I farmed out airport to Dr. Alex Lindsay who is not here today. However, highways is mine.

Q Are you going to comment on the aspects of your brief relating to highways to some extent?

A To some extent, sir. I may defer a question or two to Mr. Bossert, the President of the Chamber, in that I took over the portfolio just recently.

Q All right, and what did you want to tell us about the highway aspects?

A You, sir, did ask a question many times, "Do you disagree in any way with the road study made by the Highways Branch?" I would like to say in answer to that question, if it is a question, no, sir, I do not disagree with the study but I would like to say that the Department has prepared a very good document in that it shows the comparisons between two different routes - there are three routes but I'll use two different routes - in capital costs. I think in this respect it is an excellent report. However, I do not think that the report took into consideration the social and economic factors pertaining to the Town by recommending route one in the report. Now, here I would like to mention the report was completed in

4-BB-11

Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A (continued) May of 1972 and since then, since May of '72, there has been a very serious decline in our population caused by the shut-down of Mine Number 5. Now, the question that I keep asking myself and maybe I can ask you the question, is that if Mine Number 5 had shut down first and then the report, assuming the report was only half completed, what route would have been recommended? Bearing in mind that we in our Town have been pressing all the time for a road link between Grande Cache and Grande Prairie. I keep asking myself that.

MR. CRUMP: I take it, Mr. Didow, this is a rhetorical question?

A Probably.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Didow, you realize or appreciate that the Department of Highways study is based primarily on economic considerations?

A Yes, sir.

Q Costs?

A Yes, sir.

Q Including user costs?

A Yes, sir.

Q Are you suggesting that there would be some measurable economic value that the Department could have assessed in this community?

A Yes, sir, in that, the way I put it, had this happened that way, I think that the - maybe politics are involved here, politics are involved all over - but nevertheless I think with the pressure that we would have put on the Department may have taken a

A (continued) different view in that the fact that we are going after a secondary industry and we have been talking about tourism, that this might have been the thing that would have brought us this secondary industry.

Q Are there any other secondary industries to which the highway is important, coming through Grande Cache?

A Yes, sir, I would say that Alberta Power which is one primary industry other than McIntyre Porcupine.

Q Would they be advanced by the highway coming through Grande Cache?

A Yes, sir, in that their Head Office is Grande Prairie and all their commodities do come out of that particular centre. They are having a very difficult time bringing in their transformers, their wire, the personnel for that matter, into the community over the forestry trunk road, now and in fact that they are situated at the mine site.

Q By the way, do you have some comment to make on the forestry trunk road?

A Yes, probably in my concluded remarks I have got a --

Q You will be coming to that?

A Yes, sir.

Q Would Alberta Power be equally as well served by an all-weather highway, hard surfaced highway let us say, that joined to another highway as long as the distance to Grande Prairie was the same?

A It would probably be served as well.

Q Any other secondary industry you think that might be affected by locating the highway through Grande Cache?

A Not at the moment, sir.

Q Were you going to make some further comments on the highway, Mr. Didow?

A You have also asked the question, "Why do you think the highway should go through the Town?"

Q Yes?

A And maybe that is the question you want to ask me. Well, anyways. I think that the highway should go through Town because on the recommendations and I feel very strongly on these recommendations of the Peace River Planning Commission which they have outlined, sir, they have made their point very clear in their presentation a couple of days ago. And there's no need of me going through and reading. I would like to say, sir, I was a part of the Planning Commission when I was with the Village of Ryecroft.

Another point I would like to bring up is we, as Chamber members and some of the citizens of the community have been encouraged by the Honourable Minister, Robert Dowling, to pursue the matter of a road and routing it through the Town. We have met on several occasions in this building and other places and we have talked about this. So we are pursuing.

Q Has he given you information, economic information as to the highway development or should we subpoena him?

A Well, these are just little meetings and I suppose maybe one

A (continued) might say that his Department may have given us information but I couldn't answer that at this time.

Q Go ahead, please.

A The other thing that comes to my mind is that the trading area of this area is not, and I'm going to have to refer to Muskeg Corner because I think this is where route one suggests that the road might come through, but the trading area is not there. As a matter of fact we don't have much of a trading area, that the trading area is the Grande Cache town site. And therefore I think that the road should definitely serve the greatest number of people in our particular area. Maybe I am being selfish.

The other thing I would like to bring up is that I have just noticed this by observation. Of course I suppose I could say I saw it being built because I am a kind of an old-timer, but a very high standard thoroughfare is now being constructed through the Town and I think, now, I say, I think, that a lot of this was done at the expense of the Town. I make reference to the nice highway that follows, you might call it the Strip over there. I think that this was also done to some degree in consultation with the Department of Highways; again I may be wrong here, and I would like to go on further and say I really don't want to elaborate much further on this because Mr. Bossert has much more knowledge on it and I think that maybe he may be bringing it up later, but there are

4-BB-15

Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

A (continued) some dollars and cents involved.

Q Yes, you are talking about the highway that passes through here with the services --

A Yes, sir, the four-lane highway.

Another thing I would like to say that our Chamber along with the Town administration, we have now developed an 85-stall overnight camp site adjacent to this particular highway which would definitely compliment our tourist industry if in fact we can build one. And the fact there are establishments that are now existing along this road and I make reference here to hotels and motels, restaurants, service stations. These are the existing physical buildings.

Q Go ahead, Mr. Didow?

A I am finished, sir. I don't want to go too far because you may be asking the same questions of someone else and they may elaborate much more on it.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Stevenson, I think the witness should bear in mind that we received this brief at 11:00 o'clock on June the 11th, that would be 11:00 p.m. and that we have had a chance to go through it and to make our own notes. Primarily what we are interested in is highlighting. We are quite capable of reading the brief and that it is a public document. I notice at the end there some reference to public documents. The reference was to documents that are already public and have been for many years, and this is now a public

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

MR. CRUMP: (continued) document. I just wanted to clarify that we have had this; we have looked at it and we would like to hear the highlighting of it by the witness.

MR. STEVENSON: I think that is the message that I gave Mr. Didow when I told him --

A Oh, yes, our format, I would say, sir, was much different and that the fine counsel that you have, we have come together very well.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you, carry on.

Q MR. STEVENSON: All right, Mr. Didow, what point did you want to go on highlighting, putting your own views and restructuring some of the matters?

A Well, sir, I'm really finished here. If you have a question that I might be able to answer - I don't have to defer it.

Q But you know that we were concerned about the very questions that you raised with respect to the highway. We have deferred some of those to Mr. Bossert?

A Yes, sir.

Q We'll take them from him and from your consultant?

A Yes, sir.

Q Thanks for --

A If I may, sir, I would just like to comment --

Q You were going to tell us something about the forestry road?

A That's right, sir, sir, I have to say something about that road.

Q Well, it has been suggested to us at least as an interim measure that the maintenance of it is important. What have you got to

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) say about that?

A Well, primarily that is it, but I just wanted to get the message cross again probably.

Q Do you know --

A Well, sir, as the member in charge of transportation it irked me to no end when I, this spring, contacted the Department of Highways and the Department told me that, "We are no longer in charge of the maintenance of the road because the snow is now, is disappearing." And of course many sections of that road were in fairly, were passable. I then got in contact with the Edson section of Lands and Forests that deals with this area and this Department told me that, "We just, we can't get on that highway, simply because we have only got funds that grade it once in the spring and right now it is a little too wet, and once in the fall." And sir, you just have to drive it, across it sometime and there was a gentleman that said he was going to - he was losing a car on this section from here to Hinton and I must say this is a wonderful road. Try the forestry trunk road which I would like to say is a link now, since the inception, conception of this Town, that has now become a link and not a trunk road anymore. It is another way out. I feel, sir, that the two departments should somehow come together and put a little bit more maintenance on it because there are many American tourists driving across it, plus the fact there are many Northern people, I make reference now to my home town, Grande Prairie and down the line that the sons and daughters are

A (continued) living in Grande Cache and the older people may be are back in this community. They want to commute but they can't get through; they have to travel around through Peers, Edson, Hinton and then in. And this is something like an 800 mile round trip going around. But with a little bit of maintenance, sir, I'm not saying upgrade the road, but just give us a little bit of maintenance and I'll be really happy in that I will be able to get my dairy products across it.

Q Is there some problem with the fact that it is run by two different departments at two different times of the year?

A Yes, I would say so. I guess there is quite a history to it. There are other people that use that road and are doing damage to it and I make reference to North Canadian Forest Products in that when there are roads in that particular area that are dirt roads, especially in the spring, are not passable or they can't haul on them, they switch onto the forestry trunk road and chew it all to heck and leave terrible holes and it is their responsibility to come back and repair these. This is the agreement they have got with Lands and Forests. But the question of repairing sometimes takes as much as half a year and also to accommodate themselves they would like to maybe take out a turn or two so that those big trucks can get through. They go in there and they shake up the earth and they put in a culvert and then the road is lost another few years. And we have got a situation here where they have done this. And it is just now getting into a - two or three years ago they had done this and

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Alex Didow - Stevenson Ex.
- Patching Ex.

A (continued) it is just now getting back to where everything is settled and we can get through in the springtime. But I would say that there are --

Q Jurisdictional problems?

A Yes. And really, I think they are quite simple to be rectified with very little cost.

Q You are talking about maintenance?

A Maintenance and snow clearing program.

MR. STEVENSON: That's all the questions I have.
There may be some others.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Martland?

MR. MARTLAND: I have no questions, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching?

MR. PATCHING EXAMINED THE WITNESS:

Q Yes, perhaps I could just ask you a little bit more about this last point. Is this forestry road in the same category as the forestry road say between Kananaskis and Coleman and Ghost River up to Nordegg?

A Sir, it maybe the same line. I am not - I would think that it probably is.

Q Is there any reason why this section should get much less maintenance than other portions of the forestry roads are getting? They are being maintained quite continuously.

A You are saying why should this section get less maintenance?

Q Yes?

A That's a good question; I don't know why it is getting less

A (continued) maintenance.

Q And just another question; we are looking for help. It seems there are two issues, one, the question as to whether there should be a connection to Grande Prairie and the second, which route it should follow. And it is in regard to the second question that we are a bit troubled. The highway through the forest indicates that the distance from Grande Prairie to Grande Cache would be less by the eastern route than by the western route; the big advantage to the western route it seemed it would deflect through traffic from Highway 16 to Grande Prairie, deflect it through the Town of Grande Cache at some greater mileage and greater expense. Can you give us some good rationale for deflecting this traffic through to the west?

A The mileage difference is only six miles, correct? I believe it is; I think I checked that this morning. So six miles in this particular case I think is very little. I think that even going through the study, the road study, the fact that route number three, they mention is the most scenic route and I think truthfully that this has, would have a very large bearing on why that road should come through that particular area because it is scenic, there is no question about it and it would divert the traffic in this direction, through our Town.

Q From what you know of the area, would it be as satisfactory for trucking and through traffic, business traffic?

A Sir, with regards to trucking, I am not an expert; as a matter of fact I am not an expert on highways.

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Alex Didow - Patching Ex.

A (continued) The report defines that quite clearly with regards to grades just out of our Town. However, with regards to vehicular traffic in cars, tourist traffic, I would say there would be no problem. It would be the best route in that it would be the most scenic route and then we would be able to capturesome of the business that would be flowing through.

Q There are really two categories of traffic, aren't there; tourist and what you might call business traffice.

A Yes, sir.

Q And the main advantage would be principally for tourist traffic, I would think?

A Yes, sir, I would like to be able - I would like to see truck traffic using the highway if possible because it does - the distance factor from Vancouver let's say to Grande Prairie or Northern Alberta would be cut so greatly then by going around through Edson, Carvel Corner and then back, back-tracking into the Peace River country.

Q But of the two routes in here, the eastern highway would probably be the better for the trucking traffic?

A Yes, sir, I would say so.

Q And the western better for the tourist traffic?

A Yes, sir.

MR. PATCHING:

Right, I think that's all I have,

thanks.

4-BB-22

Alex Didow - Graham Ex.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Graham?

MR. GRAHAM EXAMINED THE WITNESS:

Q Yes, you know, tourism has been raised quite frequently here. Are there any specifics; for example I realize that you have lovely scenery here but what other attractions are there here in Grande Cache for tourists?

A Well, sir, we have a tourist expert coming up later on, but I would like to maybe --

MR. CRUMP:

Okay.

A Yes, well, that's fine. I think, you know, really, I think truthfully we are attracting tourists into our Town right now and we don't even know it. And I would like to cite --

Q Is that out of curiosity?

A Well, no, we have the curiosity seeker; this is what he is today I think. He wants to come in and see what is this thing, Grande Cache. He is a curiosity seeker but he is still a tourist; he is dropping dollars. The other thing that I would like to bring to mind is that we have certain physical complexes that are in the community existing here today and I cite our most wonderful recreation complex. I would like to say today, here, that on August 20th of this year we are holding the Maloine Hockey School in this particular community and we are the ones that can hold it here because we are the only people that can hold artificial ice in August. There's no one else in west central Alberta or the Peace River country that can put in - I'll retract there, there is a town called Fairview that is putting

A (continued) ice, that is going to have ice in for a hockey school, but we are going to attract something like 120 children, kids, children into our community along with their families who are coming in with their children to spend one week in our camp grounds in Town and maybe out at Pierre Gray Lakes and anywheres else out in the hinterland. This to me is a tourist attraction. Today we have trail rides that are now in existence; we have camping; you can camp practically anywhere; there is the fishing aspect. And of course you can just come and like maybe you are doing here, enjoy the scenic grandeur of the mighty majestic Canadian Rockies.

Q That sounds like the Chamber of Commerce.

A Also there is outfitting and probably somewheres down the line, I don't know, but Grande Cache could possibly become a conference centre. I've seen one at Fairmount Hot Springs and it is beautiful and it sits nowhere so to speak, but I can envision Grande Cache as maybe that little remote spot where you can get away from it all and have a conference that will take on, people from the City of Edmonton and that other city up north, Grande Prairie, and bring them into Grande Cache and this is good.

And going one step further, we have the Edmonton Swimming Club coming in with 20 children to use our swimming pool on a swimming meet and they are coming by campers and trailers too. So we have got certain things to offer today and if we could just get that road, a little more road mainte-

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Alex Didow - Graham Ex.
- Crump Ex.

A (continued) nance, we could promote tourism right now. I don't want to dwell too far into the aspects of tourism because we have an expert here that will be called.

MR. GRAHAM:

Thank you.

MR. CRUMP EXAMINED THE WITNESS:

Q Well, Mr. Didow, as one ex-railroad man to another I was trying to find it here; I have got a lot of notes and this is a voluminous brief but I recall reading in there somewhere in connection with the highway adjacent to the A.R.R. to follow your purview, I haven't found it, do you recall that?

A The highway parallelling the - ?

Q Developments along the highway adjacent to the A.R.R. north of here?

A It could be the highway study; I think the highway study makes it --

Q I can't find it in the transportation policy. It must then be in the highway brief.

A I would like to defer that question, sir, and if you would maybe ask it again to Mr. Bossert he may be able to enlighten you further on that one.

Q Well, it struck me as rather unusual that development on the highway because it is adjacent to the railroad because this is most unusual. However I'll check that again. I drove in here, Mr. Graham and I drove in here over the road that has been spoken of so much. We have not been over the forestry road to the north; some day perhaps, Mr. Graham, we will be able to do

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Alex Didow - Crump Ex.

Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) that.

The scenic route that you refer to really would be the section or route of the highway designated as number 3?

A Yes.

Q And undoubtedly as I understand it, reading from that map, you are farther in than the scenic portion?

A Yes.

Q But as against that you have got to cross further extensive or expensive and extensive crossings of several rivers which you wouldn't have on route number one. Am I correct in that?

A I am not - I didn't brief myself that well with regards to the report. There are a couple of rivers that might have to be crossed.

Q Perhaps, I am sure Mr. Bossert will know about that.

A Yes, sir.

Q I'll defer that.

A We do have a bridge across one of the rivers already.

MR. CRUMP: I don't think that I have anything further, Mr. Didow, you may stand down; thank you for coming.

A Thank you, sir, for giving me the opportunity of being heard.

(The Witness Retired.)

HENRY RESTA, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Resta, I understand that you are going to deal with the commercial development portion of the Chamber's brief which was just now marked as Exhibit 14, is that correct?

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Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

A Yes.

Q And I take it you are in business in Grande Cache?

A Yes, I am.

Q You run a pharmacy here?

A Yes.

Q And how long have you been in business here?

A Since September, 1969.

Q And were you in business before?

A No, before I was in Calgary; I was the Assistant Manager of Super "S" Drugs.

Q And how long had you been in the drug business prior to coming to Grande Cache?

A Ten years.

Q What is your position in the Chamber, Mr. Resta?

A I'm a director responsible for special events.

Q In some of the matters we have had before us, the question has arisen as to the extent of the deficiency that the average business has been suffering since the drop in population which has occurred over the past few months. Can you give us perhaps from your own experience, some indication of the impact of that population drop as translated to the business community?

A Yes, the population drop itself was probably in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent; business certainly for myself and I think probably almost every business without exception, would range the same, anywhere from 20 to 30 per cent or even perhaps, more.

Q Prior to the layoff, would one say that the average business in

Q (continued) the community was a fairly viable operation?

A To an extent, although last October with the opening of a large department store there were again significant drops in business.

Q To the smaller operations?

A To the smaller operations and in fact a variety store and ladies' apparel went out of business and this was probably as a direct result.

Q Can you tell me this, from your own experience, was there some yardstick for population that was used by the business community in establishing themselves, in planning their facilities?

A Yes, I think, depending on when they established really. I was one of the first businesses; my yardstick so to speak was the original prospectus I guess, which the Department of Municipal Affairs put out in 1969, plus the information in the Alberta Government Publication which was put out in I think, April, 1969, which contained basically the same information as the original prospectus.

Q That prospectus was put out for the Town for commercial proposals, is that right?

A Not specifically; it was general, I think general proposals. Well, possibly business as well as others really.

Q Do you have a copy of that prospectus?

A I don't know; there is one in the Chamber somewhere, I believe.

Q Could you furnish it to Mr. Richl so that we can get it from the Department; could you furnish it to Mr. Richl at some time?

4-BB-28

Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

A Yes, I think so, sure.

Q Now, that was a 5,000 figure?

A Yes.

Q 5,000 by 1973?

A Yes.

Q And do you know of any other source of information that businesses used?

A Now, the later businesses again certainly would refer back to those also I think probably went a lot on projections by McIntyre, I suppose, that they would have, that new contracts were pending and that sort of everything was looking right on schedule.

Q Do you know anybody that did get information from McIntyre?

A No, I couldn't say from McIntyre. Basically, I would say, it would be second-hand information, publications in the newspapers etc., that a contract was pending or that a contract had reached perhaps the verbal agreement stage.

Q The other document that you are referring to, the Provincial Government Publication is the one that was published for a while, called Alberta, The Land for the Living, or something like that?

A Within Our Borders or something, yes, that is the -- I am referring specifically to --

Q It is behind you and --

A Yes, actually, both of these publications, May 1969 and --

Q May I just identify that as being Alberta, A Land for the Living,

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Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) published June, 1969, Volume 1, No. 1, did you have that when you started planning to come in here?

A Yes.

Q And the other is an Alberta Government Publication, Within our Borders, Alberta Resources Railway?

A Yes.

Q May 1969?

A Yes.

Q Do you also have that?

A Yes, I might also add that I also talked to Mr. Gurel from the Department of Municipal Affairs in February, 1969.

Q And did he give you some figures?

A I believe at that time he gave me a copy of this prospectus that we will furnish for your records.

Q To Commission?

A Yes.

Q That was a 5,000 population figure?

A Yes, I hear behind me reports that it was 6,000, I haven't really --

Q Suffice it is to say that Alberta, Land for the Living, says it is 6,000.

A Well, I read it in 1969 so I can't remember exactly what it was.

Q I understand, I'll return these to the other representative of the press. Now, Mr. Resta, there is reference in your brief to the suggestion that there should be help for the small businessman. What kind of help are we talking about?

A Well, as I have stated, business at the moment is at an extremely low ebb and hopefully, we are hopeful that it will come back to a point where businesses will be viable but in the meanwhile what we are asking is that if, and I say if, there are local businesses that require interim financing, that the Alberta Government be prepared to give this financing on the basis that it was the Alberta Government prospectus that encouraged these businesses to come in.

Q What vehicle do you envisage for that, Mr. Resta, for getting that kind of thing?

A I don't know; I'm not an accountant.

Q But I mean, do you suggest through loans, guarantees, grants, what kind of things?

A I couldn't suggest grants, certainly not, but perhaps guaranteed loans, yes.

Q More something to cover financing during that interim, is that the kind of thing?

A Yes.

Q The business community surely takes some risks and you recognize that?

A Yes, everybody thought I was crazy back in 1969.

Q And your suggestion is here today that the magnitude of this, that you weren't accepting or didn't appreciate a risk of this magnitude?

A Yes, I would have to say that.

Q And you said to me that you felt there was some responsibility

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Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) on the government and how did that come about; why did you feel there was some responsibility on the government, Mr. Resta?

A I think basically, just to recap what I have said, that government wasn't really saying, "We think that this will happen," they were quite confident that this was going to be the situation.

Q I follow you. Now, Mr. Resta, you did have some recommendations in your portion of the submission?

A Yes.

Q And starting at page 82, the first recommendation was that you would like to suggest decisions and actions relative to the establishment of the shopping complex be reviewed, page 82?

A Yes.

Q Now, I understand that you have some concern, the businessmen, have some concern about the way in which the Town developed that particular commercial area and the guarantees and assurances that it got from the developers which in turn were passed on to you for making your plans, is this correct?

A Yes.

Q Am I being fair?

A Yes, I think so.

Q And that you wanted some investigation of the documentation and processes that were involved?

A Yes.

Q And those would lie in your view, primarily within the hands of

Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) the Department of Municipal Affairs?

A Yes.

Q And your position there would be if not satisfied, your position there would be carried out by our inquiry into the Department of Municipal Affairs in that regard?

A Yes, the Department of Municipal Affairs and subsequently perhaps possibly, even in subpoenaing the records of the Grande Cache Shopper's Park, plus, if I might add, the records of the construction company that built the shopping centre.

Q With the same object in mind?

A Yes.

Q Now, the second and third, fourth recommendation or the second and third recommendations are the ones we are really talking about, interim help?

A Yes, if I may, may I make a further comment on the recommendation?

Q Yes?

A I would like to have perhaps written into the record, page 137 of the Historical Research Study conducted by the, by Research Associates.

Q That document is an exhibit, here?

A Yes, page 137.

Q It is Exhibit 5. Just a moment, Mr. Resta, I'll look over your shoulder and see the portion you are looking at.

A Page 137, I would say, from the paragraph beginning, "According to the ..." to the bottom of the page.

Q Yes, I understand, that we don't need to trouble you to read it

Q (continued) or the Reporter to take it down. We have made a special note now of that portion of the page. That is sufficient, Mr. Resta?

A Yes, I think it has a bearing on the fact that especially the quotation at the bottom of the page. I feel in view of - I can't make any accusations because I can't substantiate them - this particular development company was chosen from eight that were submitted and in view of the absolute incompetence that the one principal in particular exhibited in preparing the shopping centre for occupancy and even to this present day, I feel that out of eight applications this possibly could not have been the best application. And I'm not making insinuations and --

Q Sounds like allegations.

A We'll leave it at that, thank you.

Q That paragraph that you referred to --

A Yes.

Q The performance of that paragraph is the issue that this submission relates to particularly?

A Yes.

Q I understand that; I want to make sure that I understand that and that is it, is it Mr. Resta?

A Yes, I think so.

Q The next item on your recommendations dealt with the serviced commercial land, item four, and do I understand that you feel there that some measures should be taken to put a moratorium on further commercial development until such time as the

Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Q (continued) existing businesses recover from the special recession that they have been suffering?

A Definitely, yes.

Q And that hopefully would be a short-term measure?

A Let us hope, yes.

Q You say, I think, that the pressure to dispose of the commercial land is of course greater on The New Town now because of this business condition than it might otherwise be?

A Yes, I think possibly, yes.

Q It tends to compound itself?

A Yes.

Q Now, the fifth point was financial assistance for planning in the Town and some criticism of the Provincial Planning Office in the past. What do you have in mind there, Mr. Resta?

A If I may, I think for the most part defer that because it is going to be dealt with I think by Mr. O'Donnell at a later date and Mr. Bossert as well. They will cover I think the planning quite significantly.

Q I take it this is planning for secondary industry that you are talking about here?

A Well, secondary industry perhaps commercial planning in general.

Q Future development?

A Yes.

Q Is there anything else, Mr. Resta, that you would like to tell us?

A I don't believe so.

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Henry Resta - Stevenson Ex.

Lloyd Bossert - Stevenson Ex.

Q Does that cover your portion of the brief?

A Yes.

MR. STEVENSON: That's all the questions I have.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Martland?

MR. MARTLAND: I have no questions, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Graham?

MR. GRAHAM: I have no questions.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching?

MR. PATCHING: No.

MR. CRUMP: I have no questions; thank you for coming, Mr. Resta, you may stand down.

A Thank you.

(The Witness Retired.)

LLOYD BOSSERT, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. Bossert, you may sit or stand and I have to warn you of what happened yesterday; that chair is one of the more dangerous ones around here.

I understand, Mr. Bossert, you are President of the Chamber of Commerce?

A That is correct.

Q And you took a major part in the preparation of Exhibit 14, the Chamber's brief?

A Yes, I did.

Q Mr. Bossert, what is your occupation now?

A I am the Director of Community Services for the Town.

Q And how long have you held that position?

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A Since March of '69.

Q And prior to that what was your position?

A Prior to that I was the Community Adviser for Federal Provincial Regional Rural Development Program.

Q Federal Provincial Rural Development Program?

A Right, commonly known as the A.R.G.A. Program. Then, prior to that I was 12 years in the Provincial Government as Senior Clerk for the Maintenance District for the Department of Highways which included this area as far as Fox Creek, as far as Spruce Grove and then north to Fort Assiniboine. Prior to that I spent 9 years with the Canadian National Railways.

MR. STEVENSON: We seem to be having a spate of railway men.

MR. CRUMP: Another railroader.

A Tradition sir, my Dad was in it for 44 years.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Bossert, in deciding how the Chamber would present its evidence today, I understand that the particular portion of the brief that you were going to deal with is tourism, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And you have heard what the Chief Commissioner has said with respect to the Commission's familiarity with the brief and I think that it would be best, the best method if I asked you to elaborate on those aspects of tourism which are in the brief which you think should be restated or restructured or emphasized or highlighted at this time.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Stevenson, may I just, to be clear on this, this is Section III dealing with tourism?

MR. STEVENSON:

I think, sir, it is Section III dealing with tourism. In respect of the brief I had a number of questions on other points which I spoke to the witnesses in advance and Mr. Bossert is also going to deal with some of them, but his pitch, am I right, Mr. Bossert, you are going to deal with the tourism portion although you are going to try to defend or advance some of the other parts as I raise questions for you, is that right?

A Right; perhaps if there is any questions outside of the tourism aspect that you want to get out of the road and then I could move to that. I would like to conclude it as quickly as I could.

Q You want to end on tourism?

A Yes.

Q Have you got the brief in front of you, please?

A Yes.

Q Mr. Bossert, on page 6 of the brief there is a reference to future coal demand and some comments about future coal demand and further on in the brief there is some material, newspaper material relating to coal demand and I wondered whether you had information with respect to metallurgical coal that gave you some indication that in fact there would be an increased demand?

A Perhaps just one statement in respect to the brief before I answer the question, and that is that we were under the impression that the Commission was interested in hearing a submission from

A (continued) the community and we put forth that this is in fact an expression from the community. If in fact we thought that the Commission was interested in a very professionally done and very clearly illustrated needs and we would have done it differently. This is essentially, sir, an expression by the community and communities traditionally have a way of responding to problems.

Q I assure you, Mr. Bossert, that the Chamber doesn't need to apologize for the brief and when I ask you questions it is not intended to indicate, as I told you before, criticism of the brief so much as seeing if there is more information here. Not that they expect you necessarily to be able to provide it.

A I'll just clarify that point, sir. Perhaps it is the wrong time; I didn't mean to create that impression with you.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Stevenson, may I interject here that my remarks a moment ago to Mr. Didow, were that we have read the brief; we appreciate it, the work that has gone into it, a very great deal of work and as an expression of opinion. We shall, of course, be having expert witnesses before us in many fields so we are not in any way attempting to make you an expert on metallurgical coal. I am sure counsel is not doing that.

A Fine.

MR. CRUMP: Since it is in the brief, counsel is asking you questions and we would like to have replies.

A The question in respect to the backup information contained in

A (continued) there. Perhaps I can answer the question in a different way. Reference was made by Mr. Didow in respect to the term of contract that the Town has, that McIntyre Porcupine has in relationship to its being the only, a big part of our economic base. And that term of contract was in fact 15 years. I think the very fact that we perhaps are amiss in our brief in not being able to support substantially tremendous long-term future developments in the coal industry in this particular area outside the 15 years, 15-year period, is perhaps illustrative of some of the insecurity we feel; the desire that we have for wanting to diversify our economic base at this time.

Q MR. STEVENSON: I think, Mr. Bossert, that that point is very clear and in going back on the subject of coal, do you have some information that would be helpful to us behind that brief, because the material I have here seemsto relate to thermal coal.

A Right.

Q Am I right?

A Right.

Q Going to page 14, Mr. Bossert, please. You talk about some businesses there or some "industry", with quotation marks around it there. Can you give us some information as to what the proposed fish farm and marketing development is that we haven't had previously?

A The information we have to this point in time, sir, is that there is a proposal for a fish marketing farm here and a

A (continued) possible processing plant for trout. The firm's name is Rocky Mountain Rainbow Limited and they are proposing something like a million six hundred thousand dollar development that they said ultimately would employ some 60 people. They are in need of land; they are in need of land that is adjacent, in proximity to the Alberta Power Plant because they would like to be able to use the warm water from the plant in their development, in their growing patterns of the fish. To my mind, anyway, the whole proposal at this point in time is very much in the conceptual stage. We haven't seen anything in the form of a presentation, but overtures have been made to our Chamber in respect to support for this particular development.

Q We haven't seen any proposal put forward here which says that this or that or the other thing needs to be done or that this or that would generate new jobs and I just wondered whether you had any further information? The Native Area Development Proposal for Muskeg and Grande Cache, the lake, what can you tell me about that?

A Well, initially I think you heard in the testimony from Mr. Kelly Joachim and Mr. Carmen Loberg that the Native Area Development Committee had in fact looked at the possibilities of some commercial development adjacent to Grande Cache Lake and had some expert advice as to what in fact they might do in an alternate way with their lands that they now own at Muskeg.

Q Is there anything that you can say that involves government action to sustain the viability of the community in connection

Q (continued) with that operation?

A Yes, there is; the initial very preliminary study that was made in respect to Grande Cache Lake was just in fact one step. I don't like the word study, but one step of a proposal that they had before the government with respect to getting \$20,000 to further take and look at the economics and the possibilities of expanding still further at Grande Cache Lake and other tourist possibilities that their lands were associated with.

Q Commercial market garden operation?

A This has been in the testing stage on lands that the native people own for the last couple of years. There's also the possibility now that we might be able to obtain some land in the near proximity to the mine site and look at the possibility of developing a commercial market garden there with possible green houses and the idea is being explored to heat it with the steam from the power plant. The reason these questions are raised is essentially because of the moratorium, in fact that the Environmental Hearings have on all lands in this particular area.

Q Local fish and game club gun range development; is that a recreational activity?

A Yes, it is; it is a community recreational activity that has a potential of outside participation as well. Here again it is inhibited by the fact that the Environmental Hearing, a moratorium on the land, and the site that they have chosen and done some work on and invested some money, is essentially stalled

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A (continued) and will be possibly until after the hearings.

Q Designation of guiding and outfitting area?

A Well, this is essentially one of the real important aspects of the whole thing, research - and you have a copy of the Rural Census Division Economics Report, shows that the potential tourism, potential business in wildlife for this particular area, this particular census division could be in the neighbourhood of \$4 million. I think the Provincial Planning Report says the potential for that could be about \$1,600,000. I think the time, it is well past and I have to say this honestly, well past, that decisions relative to protecting and designating guiding and outfitting areas in this particular area so that the native people could be able to participate in that, have past, and as much as we try to increase their skills and their participation, we have seen an absolute decline in the amount of local outfitters participating in that commercial endeavour. There has been two reasons, one, the better outfits that I know, and Mr. Harford can tell you, he uses him, can't participate any more because he has had most of his horses killed on the railway. He has had restitution, there is no doubt about it, but the mechanisms for bringing up his horses and his skills to compete in the commercialism that we have got opened up here now, are too slow in coming. And hopefully, though we have illustrated this time and time again over the last five years, going back right to when the first time Mr. Lane-Hetland done a masters thesis of this area before the industrialization, it was highlighted then that we

A (continued) must make provision for some of the encounters that the native people were going to be suffering and some of the things we must do to improve their life skills if they are going to compete successfully.

Q I notice you use the words designation of guiding and outfitting area, what do you have in mind there, Mr. Bossert?

A It has been proposed for some time before the Alberta Government by Outfitters Association that some designation of boundaries, guiding and outfitting areas within the province of Alberta be done similar to that that is done in the Yukon, British Columbia and places like this. That hasn't been done. Essentially I think it is quite important because we have leased out something like 162,000 acres of land for coal extraction; that represents 540 square miles. And in fact the worth in wildlife per acre in this particular area is something like \$331 an acre. So I would think it would be equally important to designate out those areas that we could sustain livelihood for our native people in the way of wildlife development.

Q Do you have any idea of protecting them, protecting those areas?

A Those areas, what has been done, been suggested by the people, has been a designation of a certain area. They would participate in that area. We have experienced over 22 outfitters, as many as 22 outfitters coming into this area last year. I certainly believe that they are, we are depriving over \$1,600,000 benefits; we are certainly not giving them. The native people are becoming the hewers of the wood and the carriers of the water for these

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A (continued 22 outfitters that come in. They could participate in this.

Q These are outside outfitters?

A Right.

Q And presumably in saying there should be some designation you are indicating some protection for the local people?

A Yes.

Q Now, do I understand from what you said earlier, that basically the problem with all these things is the moratorium that seems to have been created by the Environmental Hearing, the Eastern Slopes Hearings?

A That is part of it, sir. The aspect about the guiding and outfitting of course has been proposed before, long before the Environmental Hearings were even considered.

Q Yes.

A Certainly I think that there is some impediment at this particular time; I think that the Environmental Hearings are possibly a wonderful thing, except that development doesn't start and stop; development is a very ongoing type of thing and it becomes exceedingly hard to continue unless you have some system of acknowledging that you are going to have to make decisions.

Q Tell me, Mr. Bossert, what do you recommend or suggest that the government could do in connection with these kinds of development that would have an economic impact on the community?

A The particular aspect, one of the things that is impeded for instance, is us being able to make the type of economic submis-

A (continued) sions and the type of impact upon the Environmental Hearing in respect to let's say the wildlife aspects and what it does mean to the native people in terms of dollars and cents. It means that we either go in with this type of a submission or we go in with a very documented, sophisticated and clearly defined, and to be able to put that kind of a document together, sir, we need resource people; we need help; we need research people; we need information; we need money to get there. We know what has to be done.

Q Most of these are developments that would essentially be done by the private sector?

A In some respects, yes, but the thing that bothers me there is that that is piecemeal; you almost end up like a dog's breakfast. If you continually have your municipal authorities doing one thing and you have your private sector doing another and you have another group trying to do something else for native people, unless there is some over-all coordination and some planning and unless some kind of a goal is defined that we're going to be working towards collectively.

Q You suggest planning for a larger area than simply the Town itself?

A Well, certainly, I think that it is inevitable that we plan at least on a regional basis.

Q And get expertise in to do the planning?

A Yes.

Q To some extent, my last remark, Mr. Bossert, would it apply to

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Q (continued) your recommendation on page 18, for the pursuit of the proposals re the market garden, greenhouse development and the fish development, those would be private enterprise operations. What you are saying is there has to be some government planning involved?

A Yes.

Q You are not suggesting government intervention otherwise, are you?

A Not toally, no; I'm not really suggesting government planning either, sir, because I am very disillusioned with government planning.

Q I follow you; you mean making the resources available so the community can plan it?

A Right.

Q That is your objective?

A Right.

Q And these ventures then would have to satisfy themselves in the same way as any other private venture?

A Yes.

Q And proceed accordingly?

A Yes.

Q Page 19; the recommendations which you make on page 19, Mr. Bossert, with respect to the C.N.R. employees, I don't quite understand that problem; what do you think we could recommend?

A Well, perhaps the very fact that it has been highlighted here today and you are asking the question might be significant

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A (continued) enough. There has in the past been some promises made in respect to the Canadian National Railways budgeting and actually supplying permanent housing here for their employees stationed in Grande Cache. In the interim, this has never become a reality like many of the other projections that has happened in this area. The fact that they, some of the employees have made interim measures, bought trailers, etc., there still exists in the community those employees who would like to take up permanent residence and our concern as a Chamber, we become more or less stabilized as a community when we get more people into homes of their own and that is the way they feel; that is their attitude.

Q Is there some impediment then, employees doing this?

A Well, essentially, I think the Canadian National Railways has its form of bureaucracy probably, like anything else.

Q You may talk about the C.N.R. if you want to. Go ahead; I couldn't resist that.

A That is the particular point that I am making anyway.

Q Then you go on to say you consider the suggestion as made and recorded in the information study - to structure an expediting group to pursue freight shipments. What do you have in mind there?

A Well the information contained in the - and I know that the situation of the Alberta Resources Railway is not before you, sir, but there was a recommendation made on a provincial level for an expediting group made up of C.N.R. people and provincial

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A (continued) government people, be put together to sort of scour and really look at it, the possibilities of freight shipments via the Alberta Resources Railway. And we feel that though there has been a lot of controversy in respect to whether we should build or whether we shouldn't, I think that we are losing sight of ultimately what we have got to do, and that is, essentially, increase the freight traffic on that particular line.

Q And you think that the government should have involvement in that?

A Well, there was a recommendation made by the people in the C.N.R. at that particular time. It is referenced in that information study.

Q And you think the Town would benefit from that?

A I do.

Q In what general way?

A I think increased activity on the Alberta Resources Railway would certainly generate more C.N.R. employees here; it has its spin-off effects.

Q What facilities does the C.N.R. have here?

A They have nothing right here in the Town; they have a sort of a mobile type of a building at the McIntyre Porcupine loading site. And I think, my understanding is, that there has been some projections for a more permanent structure down there.

Q The staff that live here, what do they do for the C.N.?

A They are involved in the maintenance portion of the Alberta Resources Railway and they - they are essentially support staff for the operation of trains on that line.

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MR. STEVENSON:

Would this be a convenient point to adjourn, sir, for a couple of minutes?

MR. CRUMP:

Yes, that would be satisfactory; it is almost 11:00 o'clock. We'll take a 15 minute break, ladies and gentlemen.

(The Hearing adjourned for 15 minutes.)

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(Hearing resumed at 11:15 a.m.)

Q MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Bossert, page 20, you refer to Kakwa logging operation, what are you suggesting that the government ought to do in connection -- or what ought to be done in connection with that logging operation?

A We are particularly concerned as the Chamber, sir, that the forest industry in this particular area be utilized to its ultimate, and I don't think I have to belabour that point, it is before the Commission in various forms, and there are reports in. The problems in the past have been the securing of long term timber leases in order that the operation can in fact justify viability over an extended period of time and thus, of course, be able to justify the expenditures, the investment of private money of X number of dollars into an enterprise that would have some life expectancy, and some tenure of operation.

Q You understand that to be Kakwa's problem?

A That is part of the problem in respect to leases, yes.

Q Because we have had no direct items in connection with this.

Page 21 you go over and deal with the other two operators, Proctor & Gamble and Northwest Pulp, and the project planning report, I assume you are talking about the 1966 planning report and the projection for forest re-employment, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell me how Proctor & Gamble and Northwest Pulp fit into that report in connection with this community when their operations are, as we know, centered elsewhere?

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A Communities have in one way or another governments from time to time co-optate the responsibility of development in their area, and that is fine, I think communities have a responsibility to accept that, but when in fact the timber resources of a particular area are given out to large corporations, such as Northwest Pulp & Power, and such as Proctor & Gamble, and the provincial planning report stated that 200 people were possible to be employed in the forest industry and residence in Grande Cache, they are not here, and it is very hard for a Chamber organization or a town council to effect some decisions from people like Proctor & Gamble or people like Northwest Pulp & Power in relationship to what they plan to do with the public resources that they have been given under reserve in and around the boundaries of our Town.

Q Well, of course, both of those operations are centered elsewhere, what do you suggest?

A One alternative that could be explored would be the possibility of starting to cut pulp wood. In this particular area here, like Hinton, Northwest Pulp & Power are doing it at camp 35, but there is no benefits here, they haul the men out, but certainly we could look at the possibility -- at least we could explore and find out whether there is justification for Proctor & Gamble starting to cut in this particular area and shipping it back via the Alberta Resources Railway.

It is all these intangibles that we don't know of.

Q You are suggesting cutting here, near here, with the people

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Q (Continued) doing the cutting might be local people, and centered here?

A Right.

Q That is the point there, is it?

A Yes.

Q Page 31, Mr. Bossert, you say that there were decisions by the Alberta Opportunity Fund to invest in tourism development in Grande Cache; are you talking about their financing of motels?

A Yes.

Q And are you saying that that was done from a tourism point of view?

A Yes. There are two parts to that. I am particularly -- we in the Chamber are particularly concerned whether that investment was made on the basis of Grande Cache being a tourist destination point or whether in fact that an investment and guarantee of public money was made on the basis that the highway was going through Grande Cache and connecting to Grande Prairie, as is evidenced by the fact that is it a numbered highway in here now.

Q That would be a comparatively recent investment by the Alberta Opportunity Fund?

A Yes, I would have to put it this way, in all fairness, the negotiations were some time ago with the old government. They have been impeded to the point where I don't think any money has been realized yet, but there is definitely a commitment.

Q And that is in tourist facilities, and you wonder in essence

Q (Continued) what tourism back-up there was for that?

A What criteria are they basing there, yes.

MR. PATCHING: Excuse me, may I ask, are you saying that there has been a commitment for provincial funds for additional motels, in addition to those that are here now?

A No sir, I am not. There has been commitment made to my knowledge to two of them. We would hope very sincerely that no future commitment is made for any more motels or hotels until we have some viability of the existing ones that we have.

Q MR. STEVENSON: You believe that what investment has been made was made on rational grounds and you are curious as to what back-up there was for that kind of investment?

A Yes, because that is the -- it gives us the same kind of base line to do some of our projections from.

Q Now, Mr. Bossert, the major pitch of the Chamber seems to be directed towards the highway?

A Yes.

Q How does the routing of the highway through Grande Cache affect your development with respect to tourism?

A Well possibly we have to maybe just backtrack a bit inasmuch as the Department of Highways actually built the existing grade that goes through the Town. They built that grade and then went -- we have to remember here that we had Associated Engineers hired as our engineering firm to help in establishing the grade levels, et cetera, et cetera, and so

A (Continued) I imagine that they worked in conjunction with, who was an appointed counsel at that time, Department of Municipal Affairs, provincial planning branch of highways, and our Associated Engineers.

The fact of the matter is they built the grade through but then it was realized that the grade was too high so consequently it had to be lowered to meet the rest of the Town plan and that cost \$13,000, of which we as tax payers have paid for. I am not sure whose mistake it is but I am certain it is not ours as tax payers. It is either highways, Associated Engineers, or Department of Municipal Affairs. \$13,000 is a lot of money.

It is very evident that somebody had an input into planning the type of service road that we have going through Town because for thirty-five hundred people the standard of that particular road is exceptionally high. I think you will have to agree that Highway 16 goes through Hinton, and only recently has Hinton had the service road construction that they have. Edson has no service road construction at all adjacent to Highway 16 going through their town and it has a maximum of 5,000 cars a day during their peak summer time and so we are saying in general terms that that standard is very very high, and we say that that standard is high enough to have been projected to be, allowing for a major highway to go through that Town through our Town.

Q You feel that it is up to highway standards?

A Yes. And in the same process, sir, it has now been designated, of course, as Highway 40, and to my knowledge, and I spent nine

A (Continued) years in highways, but I certainly stand to be corrected -- I made a lot of mistakes in there -- to my knowledge no town in this province has ever paid for the asphalt costs of a numbered highway going through their town, and I have particular reference to the Town of Edson which I worked in for some ten, fifteen years.

We in fact as a Town have paid for the asphalt costs of something like three thirty-five or three eighty-five a square yard to asphalt that highway out there. We are talking about a Town deficit that amounts to something like \$50,000 when in fact we have two questions that need to be answered; who is going to pay us back that \$13,000, who is going to reimburse us for the asphalt costs? I would dare guess that at least \$25,000 could be knocked off our Town deficit had we those two questions answered.

Q All right. Now you say that that is up to highway standards?

A Yes.

Q And we were leading up to the question of why the highway should go through Grande Cache?

A Well perhaps just one tail end question to that. As you know the highway goes to the Blue Bridge which is just below Town. In addition to that -- which has given the community some indication, and I think sort of helped establish the concept that the highway would be coming through this Town, is the very fact that at the particular time they also reserved, the Department of Highways Planning Branch, reserved a 200 foot right-of-way through the mine site down as far as Sheep Creek, which certainly left the connotation in the minds of

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A (Continued) a great many people that a highway was going to be going directly through the Town.

Q Did anybody that you know of act upon that feeling or impression?

A I would have to say, I would think that in particular one of our motel operators was very aware, he was pretty knowledgeable, he cleared the Town site, he was very knowledgeable that this was going to be -- that the standard that was being put in was such, and he got involved because it was necessary for him to lower his motel location when the service road thing had to be attached in there.

I would have to say that in my discussions with him, on just a personal basis, that he was pretty cognizant and still does believe pretty firmly that the highway is going through the Town.

Q Do you know of anything beyond that, Mr. Bossert, to indicate that anybody relied upon that impression or appearance?

A No, it is an intangible, sir.

Q All right. Now, Mr. Bossert, you are going to develop why the highway should come through the Town?

A Yes. Why the road through the Town of Grande Cache -- I think it is particularly important here, sir, that we define this as being, I believe, a two part question, because first of all I think we have to look at the word, Town, as it relates to Grande Cache and as it relates to the province, and I think that by taking this thing apart and sort of looking at it we might have a better perspective into why it should come through the Town, and then in the resource person I have here this

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A (Continued) afternoon, as to how we might bring this about.

Grande Cache is a Town like any other Town in Alberta, and essentially it has people and stores and motels, service stations, and hopes and dreams and aspirations that go right down to a gut level; and I think we have heard that here in the testimony in the last week.

Q Yes?

A But it also has some very distinct feelings, sir, inasmuch as the people of this Town didn't build this Town, and I think that is a distinction that needs to be recognized. I think that is a clear distinction compared to other Towns in Alberta, the process of building a Town from a village.

Q Not to other new towns?

A Yes to other new towns as well, sir, because this Town here is unique in that no one was here, period, outside of the native people of the area who have not participated in the planning at all.

Q Go ahead.

A Private enterprise and, of course, the government, and I think it is safe to say that a lot of academics and a lot of planners built this Town and they built it essentially for the people that are here; I think that is important and I think that that is very much a distinction inasmuch as the people that are here are people that came from all over the world, from a number of ethnic backgrounds together with a number of individual attitudes, and I think that this is a very distinct aspect. It was something like a cake mix, a modern urban town, and you add people and mix.

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A (Continued) I think the statement has been made that, those people in Grande Cache don't really know what is good for them, they are getting so much public money; and essentially there is no more public money, in fact the Town is going to be subject to an inquiry, and I think that that is a distinct feature to this Town.

MR. CRUMP: May I interrupt here, who made this statement?

A I think it has been generally stated that the Town of Grande Cache has been in receipt of something like two hundred and fifty million dollars of money in one form or another, and no further private or public investment will be forthcoming until such time as a provincial inquiry has been carried out, it seems to be a general thing.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Are you saying that that is an impression, or are you attributing that to someone?

A I will say it in general terms and I will say that it is a fact that the province has called a public inquiry.

Q We will accept that.

A That is a distinction to our Town.

Q And we will accept that.

A I think the fact that in our Town we pay municipal taxes, we pay school debenture costs, we pay interest on money loaned us under the New Towns Act, we pay federal taxes, provincial taxes, federal building taxes, industrial taxes, both on the mine and the power plant, we pay provincial gasoline tax, we pay hidden federal and provincial taxes, the same as any other Alberta community.

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Q Yes?

A I think there is no distinction there. I think the distinction comes in that we are being asked to pay for a town essentially that was planned for 6000 people, and I think that is a distinct aspect that other towns don't have, because other towns built their town and expanded their town as their population growth came into it.

MR. PATCHING:

Did you say 5000 people or 6000?

A Six thousand, sir, as the brochure from the provincial government indicates. I think it is fair to say that we want to pay for our Town like any other town, and like the people in it, and I don't think there is anything distinct there. I think it comes down to the case then of how we pay for our Town, and we are getting back again to the why of this road.

I think there are really no different formulas for us paying for this Town than there is for any other town in Alberta. We pay interest under the New Towns Act, the same as other towns in the province and I think there is no distinction there. I think the distinction comes through when we start defining the word, towns, in Alberta, and I have looked up what the urban planning commission has said that represents towns in Alberta, in the urbanization study commission by the province, and it said, settlements averaging 3500 people with shopping center, service center and rural trading area, and I think that that is a distinction to this Town because we do not have a rural

A (Continued) trading area, so we are in fact distinct from other Alberta towns.

I think we have to look at, what have we got, in the way and means of being able to pay our way. Have we got a main highway in and out of our Town, like Edson and Hinton and Jasper and Whitecourt and other communities of comparable size? I think the answer has to be, no; so I think we are distinct in that respect as well.

I think we have to look at, have we got pulp, have we got railway, oil, tourists, a forestry school, centralized school system, trucking and coal like Hinton -- well certainly we have the coal; we have a degree of trucking, we have a small influx of forestry, and -- I think that Edson has sawmills, pulp, farmers, centralized school, adjoining hamlets, the oil industry -- it is a government agency center, it has a railway and it had a six and a half million dollar A.R.D.A. program.

I think we have to look at the things that we have in our Town here that are relative to that and I think we have again got coal. I think we have got coal and we have hope and we have got a contract for 15 years, and I think that is distinct.

We have a Town with some 3000 people who are prepared to pay for 6000, but where are we going to get that?

Q Well, sir, where do we have the 15 year contract?

A Well it is no longer 15 year contract, right, and I think that is a distinction that the horse seems to be ahead of the cart

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A (Continued) inasmuch as we have got the Town but we haven't got the people.

We have got a commercial area that is certainly ready to serve 5000 people. We are a Town with possibly one of the highest standards, commercial standards, outside of the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary; the very fact that our commercial number one land here is \$50,000 per acre is pretty significant, to that of other towns of comparable size, and I would have to say that that is a very distinct feature of this Town.

We have a Town that has got probably one of the most modern recreation complexes of any community this size in Alberta, I think that is distinct, as much as we are as proud of it as we can possibly be we are also as conscious as we can possibly be that it is about an \$80,000 deficit to operate.

We are a Town that are some two and a half million dollars in debt for our education facilities and striving hard to pay it off, and I think that is distinct in that very few communities in this province have got that type of investment in all new facilities that we have here, and certainly the debt load that we are carrying there is pretty significant.

I think another distinction is that we are a Town with some 200 native people that have been displaced in one way or another and are striving as well as they can, and are not on welfare, and I think that that is a very clear distinction that should be made. I think there is

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A (Continued) a tremendous amount of credit can go, not only to the native people, who I think really deserve it, but go to the Town in the fact that the people of this Town don't carry the same type of biases towards the native people that you'd find in a lot of centers, and I think that that is very distinct. I think that the cooperation and understanding and the desires that are at McIntyre Porcupine in respect to native people, and when they get their pre-production and production problems out of the way I think we will see the blossoming of that, and I think that that is distinct.

I think another feature that brings us in probably the same category as a lot of towns across this province is the fact that we voted Conservative in the provincial election and we voted Conservative in the federal election, there is nothing distinct there, but the very fact that a great many of our residents didn't vote is a distinction that is different than other Alberta towns because we have a lot of new Canadians in our Town.

MR. GRAHAM: Is the fact that a number of your residents didn't vote, do you consider that distinct over any other center? I think this is prevalent all the way through --

A No, I should have clarified that particular point, sir. They didn't vote, sir, because of the fact that they have to become Canadian citizens.

MR. GRAHAM: I see. They didn't have the right to vote?

A They didn't have the right to vote, I am sorry, sir.

MR. CRUMP:

May I interrupt here for just a

MR. CRUMP: (Continued) moment, Mr. Bossert. Have you many more pages to read?

A No, I am almost there, sir.

MR. CRUMP: All right, because counsel has some examination.

A All right, just one or two quick ones, and one is that, can we purchase land adjacent to our Town, either private or government? And the answer is, no. A lot of communities can enjoy this and consequently get some secondary industries going. I think that illustrates some of the reasons why that we are different from other towns and I think it is important that we make a distinction on this business of town. I think the reason that the road should be coming through our Town, even at a cost of seven million dollars more is that we are essentially an ultra-modern urban town in an urban county.

If urbanization means a process whereby product productive resources are centralized and people reside there to serve these resources then the road should come through Grande Cache, and I think the Peace River Planning Commission has illustrated this in saying that if the road comes out 25 miles from here we fractionize the commercial sector of this community.

It is a matter of human decision, and I argue that when it is a matter of human decision whether the road comes through this Town or not, and I will argue the very thought about statistical justification with that road coming through, because

A (Continued) statistics by way of modern thought and their collection as the tools of research are subject to the force of inevitability. We have really no control except the ones we coerce on to the travelling public as to where they might go. So really the statistical information that we might come up with is certainly something that I don't feel can be applied.

I think we can agree that the scenic value of Roger's Pass, the scenic value of the Canadian Pacific Railway as it winds through the Rockies, the scenic value of the Canadian National Railway, and their subsequent investment in dome cars to be able to look at that panoramic view that we have outside our windows has certainly got some dollar value. I am very confused as to where we find that dollar value for that scenic value, but I do believe that it is significant enough to the Canadian National Railways, and significant enough to Roger's Pass that certainly route 3, as it winds along the Rockies here is a significant factor that we should in some way or another try to measure in terms of dollars, against that seven million dollars.

MR. CRUMP: I think counsel should proceed with your examination now, Mr. Bossert. You can file that document that you are reading, if you wish.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Bossert, did you have some figures that you thought were indicative of sort of the potential that people hadn't looked at?

A I think that there is a number of statistical information that we can use to be able to try to justify in some economic

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A (Continued) terms why it should come through the Town, but I think that it becomes exceedingly difficult to try to justify the sociological aspects of the route coming through here, and what it would do for the aspirations of the people of this Town as far as knowing that we have in fact been able to diversify our community's economy at this particular time, and not have to worry over the time spectrum of less than 15 years now; whether or not in fact we might be like the Coal Branch experience.

Q Did you have some statistics that you wanted to give us, Mr. Bossert?

A We have got information that -- the last information that has been compiled --

Q 1965, and would you read the document?

A The document is The Resources For Rural Development in Census Division 14, and the document was prepared under funding by the federal-provincial governments and done by the economic division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture; and, sir, this is the last really collection of economic information that we can put our hands on.

Q It is for this census district?

A Yes, this census division. It showed that at that particular time, this was 1965, before the advent of the Yellowhead, that 30,000 tourists travelling through with what was at this time documented as their staying time of 2.7 days, on an average cost expenditure per day of six ninety-five could equal something like \$417,000 to the economy. I think at that particular time that it made mention of the fact that

A (Continued) actually this census division was only realizing about point five per cent of the potential tourism that it could be doing. I think there have been some changes in those figures in the preceding years but it does represent the only base-line figures, and one of the things that we badly need is to be able to work from common base and statistical information.

A number of presentations are going to be made to the environmental hearings and it is going to be necessary for them to do projections based on statistical information and everybody is going to be using their own staff.

I think too -- I think that is about it. We are going to -- we have with us this afternoon a man that has some more information that he will bring down quickly from a federal level to a provincial level on how we might in fact look at bringing a road through the Town.

Q Mr. Bossert, have we omitted anything that you wanted to put forward that isn't in the written material?

A Just one point, sir, and it will be my last, but I think it is significant as we measure and try to justify the expenditure of \$7,000,000, that the people of the Town are essentially people that have to believe in the destiny of this community, and I think they have to believe in McIntyre Porcupine if we are going to make it go. I think that it is acknowledged that a lot of the decisions relative to this Town have been made outside of it, and will continue to be, for some time, but I think, sir, and I don't want to be leaving the impression with

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A (Continued) you that this in fact is the only alternative that we are considering; it is in fact not, we are uniquely trying to devise ways to diversify this economy and get it back on to a stable way so that we can pay, but we do realize that as people that we lack in some areas, we do lack, if you will acknowledge -- I will use the term, power, as it relates to decision making, that we do have the decision making process here in fact to be able to declare this Town bankrupt, and the provincial government pick up eight million dollars, which is a pretty significant amount compared to the seven million dollars that coming through the Town might be. We have that decision making power, and, sir, it is certainly not a decision making power that we wish to exercise. We want to look for alternatives and that is why we have brought with us this afternoon a man who has said, now this is how we might go about doing it.

That concludes my remarks, sir.

MR. STEVENSON:

I don't have any further

questions, thank you.

MR. MARTLAND:

No questions, sir.

MR. CRUMP:

Mr. Patching, have you any

questions that you wish to ask Mr. Bossert?

MR. PATCHING:

Perhaps I might just ask if it

would be possible for you to provide references to some of the documents and statistics that you have in your report for the use of our advisors. This could be done in written form later on.

A Yes, sir. One observation there, it has been exceedingly

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A (Continued) difficult to get good information on exactly what has been spent in here. You take it out of newspaper reports within our borders, and you know it is just a hodgepodge, so there would be a multitude of references that we would have to go to, and one sort of contradicts the other and so you have to sort of find a baseball park figure that everybody at one time said it was.

MR. PATCHING:

Well that is exactly why we would like to have some references so that we can tell where they did come from and how much credence can be given to the individual numbers.

A Okay, we will supply a list of that.

MR. CRUMP:

I think perhaps there is a little misunderstanding, Mr. Patching. It is the reference, Mr. Bossert, to the charts that are used because any charts or statistics that are produced without date and source are really of very little use, and that is what we have in mind. As far as gathering the costs go that is a term of reference to this Commission; we are not asking for that.

A All right.

MR. CRUMP:

Thank you, Mr. Bossert, you may stand down.

(Witness retires)

DENNIS H. O'DONNELL, sworn, examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q Mr. O'Donnell, you are a recreation and facility planner;
I understand?

A That is right.

Q And you have been in private practice following that
pursuit for the past two years?

A That is right.

Q Working out of Edmonton?

A Yes.

Q And you are associated in that activity with engineering
and consulting firms, other firms that do engineering and
consulting and planning?

A That is right, as it relates to recreation facilities or
community planning.

Q Right, so that you are sometimes part of a team approach
planning?

A That is right.

Q And I understand that you graduated with a Bachelor of
Physical Education, University of Alberta, 1963, and taught
five years, is that correct?

A That is right.

Q And then you took -- then what did you do after that for
the next two years?

A Master of Science in Recreation Administration, Research
and Planning, University of Oregon.

Q And following that?

A I was employed by the Provincial Government as a Recreational

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A (Continued) Planner in the Recreation Branch, Department of Youth, at that time.

Q For two years?

A That is right.

Q And you are currently involved in a Ph. ~~D~~. program at the University of Waterloo in Recreation Regional Planning and Resource Development?

A That is correct.

Q And I understand that you have had experience in this particular area, some experience with this community; you weren't dropped in here last night without any --

A No, during my travelling as a Planning Consultant with the Provincial Government I visited many communities, one of which was Grande Cache, to aid them in certain aspects of Recreation Planning within their community.

Q And I understand that you have been the author of a number of publications, plans for building this residential camp on Lesser Slave Lake, a multi-cultural center for the Parkland County; recreation study of High Prairie and region, Slave Lake, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan?

A Those last two are total recreation master plans, right.

Q Now, Mr. O'Donnell, what, broadly speaking, did the Chamber ask you to advise them on for today?

A When Mr. Bossert contacted me he expressed a concern that possibly in putting together their brief the tourist aspect may have not been pulled together as well as he would like

A (Continued) it and as a result the proposition was to come up to Grande Cache and attempt to pull together and present in a unified form the implications of the tourist development in this particular region, and particularly as it relates to the highway and the Town of Grande Cache.

Q Now I understand that, and the Commission recognizes this, Mr. O'Donnell, but you were not commissioned to do a thorough study by the Town, and you haven't had the time to do so?

A I have prepared a report that is an attempt to pull together the statistics that they have collected, and also make some statements based on my past experience in outdoor recreation, resource planning.

Q And would you care to outline generally what your views are on that commission that you were undertaking?

A Yes, thank you. First of all I would like to indicate that my field of expertise is primarily concerned with recreation research and planning. The field itself includes as one component tourism, and in defining tourism in a very general term we may simply say that it is the involvement of people in certain types of leisure recreation activities while away from their home land, so to speak.

People travel distances to do certain things or view unique features, and this is in essence the basis of what we call tourism. In this particular paper I prepared it in conjunction with, and upon behalf of

A (Continued) the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce so that the comments that are presented are the feeling of the Chamber and myself.

MR. CRUMP: The Grande Prairie Chamber?

A Pardon me, Grande Cache.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you.

A So we are looking at considerations for determination -- for the determination of tourism as a secondary industry in Grande Cache and Region; that is the topic of the report.

It is broken down into five particular sections and after sitting through the sessions yesterday there were two major questions that seemed to need answering, and each person that mentioned the tourism aspect was hit with, why tourist development? Can you justify it? And how tourist development? Those are the first two sections.

From that we put together a listing of requests and recommendations to be presented to the Commission for their consideration. As a follow-up we have taken those recommendations and requests and re-arranged them in an order of priorities for action for tourist development in the Grande Cache area, primarily the Grande Cache Region and the specific site of the Town; and then a short conclusion. So that is the basis of the report.

" At this time, the results of a proper market analysis are not available, however, the following

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A (Continued)

"information is presented as an indication of the tourist potential in the Town of Grande Cache and region.

The demand for use of wilderness areas outside of the National and Provincial Parks has increased dramatically in the last 3-5 years.--"

MR. CRUMP: Just hold up a moment, Mr. O'Donnell, has this report been filed?

MR. STEVENSON: Mr. O'Donnell was good enough in fact to write it out instead of giving it all in questions. It is partly in his handwriting and partly typed. He has given us the document.

A Yes, the document will be filed with you.

MR. CRUMP: All right, thank you.

MR. STEVENSON: As a matter of fact what I will do is mark it as an exhibit now, Mr. O'Donnell, and it will become Exhibit 15 and we can have it retyped or translated or --

A Well I apologize to the Commission for the fact that it is not in formal form but the time factor would not allow.

MR. STEVENSON: You don't need to apologize, Mr. O'Donnell, we understand that and we appreciate your trying to put it in written form on the short notice.

DOCUMENT HEADED CONSIDERATIONS FOR
THE DETERMINATION TOURISM AS A SECOND
INDUSTRY IN GRANDE CACHE MARKED
EXHIBIT 15.

Q MR. STEVENSON: Now we have this written report, Mr. O'Donnell, and we will have a chance to study it and

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Q (Continued) look at the statistics, so does it suit you to come down to the basic figure rather than show how you arrived at it, unless I want to question you on it?

A If this is in agreement with the Commission, fine. I thought I would run through the steps in my justification for the types of figures.

Q Yes, I don't want to throw you off your presentation at all.

A Well this is summarized from a further writing so I think it is meaningful, these are the major points.

Q All right.

MR. CRUMP: Proceed.

A "Tourism in Alberta is considered to be the second largest industry due to the amount of leisure time that the average person has in our present society. On a National scale, it is considered to be the primary industry in this country. Each community in this Province that is situated in a naturally unique area has benefited from this fact.

According to current data analyzed, Canadian spending in Alberta amounts to approximately 57.2% of the total tourist income, or approximately \$35 million; an average of \$135.00 per person. " Keep that figure in your mind, \$135.00 per person for Canadian spending.

"This represents approximately \$45.00 per person.

Americans spending in Alberta amounts to 41.7%

A (Continued)

"of the total tourist income, or approximately \$25 million; an average of \$180.00 per person.

A check on these declarations per person can be justified, if it can be estimated that the following expenditures are made by each person per day:"

On a particular holiday.

" Lodging	\$5.00 to \$7.00
Food and beverages	\$6.00 to \$7.00
Auto services	\$2.00 to \$3.00
Misc. and entertainment ...	<u>\$2.00 to \$3.00</u>
TOTAL	\$15.00 to \$20.00 per day.

Assuming the average stay is 2 - 3 days " and I refer back to the Resources for Rural Development, and it is footnoted;

"...the total expenditure per person per stay could be between \$30.00 and \$60.00 (an average of \$45.00 per person).

Using this information, part of the answer to the question 'Why Promote Tourism in Grande Cache?'; can be answered."

And now we go into a speculation of attracting X number of people into the area and attempting to show what the economic value would be. The questions yesterday put to the Grande Cache representative attempted to try to come to some dollar value and this is exactly what I have

Dennis H. O'Donnell - Stevenson Ex.

A (Continued) attempted to do, but on a speculative basis with many assumptions.

MR. CRUMP: Yesterday it was to the Grande Prairie representative.

A Grande Prairie, yes.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you.

A "If 3,000 Canadians can be attracted in 1974," and that would be interpreted over an expanse of twelve months, or six months, I am just leaving it open, "... this would represent approximately 1,000 party groups of visitors. " being that one party group represents approximately 3 people, in other words approximately a thousand cars, for tourist reasons.

"Economically, it would mean an income of approximately \$135,000.00"

Now I am taking this group figure, which was \$135.00 for Canadian and multiplying it times one thousand.

" If 25% of the number of Canadians (primarily Americans) were attracted, this would represent about 777 persons, or approximately 258 party groups. Economically, it could mean an income of approximately \$25,000.00.

The total estimated possible income for 1974," accepting these assumptions,

"... and allowing for a variance of 10% would

A (Continued)

"be between \$144,000 and \$176,000 (Mean of approximately \$160,000)."

Q MR. STEVENSON: You are talking about 80 cars a month?

A On an average of a twelve month period?

Q Over a twelve month period, yes?

A Okay.

Q Is this a feasible figure, even with this sort of a highway?

A From talks that I have had with the Chamber, yes, this is entirely feasible. Of course the concentration would probably be in the month of June, July, August, September and October, where you have the summer tourist trade and also the hunting individuals coming through.

Q Would you think a figure of 3,000 people is --

A I think it is probably low and reasonable, but in checking my figures, my suggested figures with the Chamber of Commerce they seemed to agree.

Q I understand that the Town or Chamber have done no tourist promotion at all?

A This is what I understand; very minimal if at all.

" Of this approximated \$160,000, spending breakdowns could be assumed to be outlined as follows:"

Now what I have done is taken National norms and Alberta Provincial norms as it relates to the spending of tourist dollars in two, four, six categories, transportation, food

A (Continued) and beverages, accommodation, preparation and sundry expenditures, sightseeing and entertainment and miscellaneous expenditures. Now, I won't go through that chart because we have got a lot of percentages and costs.

Q That is a breakdown of --

A Of the \$160,000, so what we could actually see is that certain aspects of expenditure which would be reflected in the gains by local commercial businesses could look something like this. In 1974 the potential income, assuming all of those particular things come true, for transportation could range from, and here we are talking about primarily the service station, the oil service stations, for transportation could range from 36, approximately \$36,000.00 to approximately \$48,000.00, a mean of \$32,000.00 approximately. I have done this breakdown for each one of the aspects of tourist expenditure. I won't go through that specifically.

Now, that is 74.

" It is expected that the growth of the tourist industry from year to year across Canada will range between 5% to 10%."

And I go back to Tourist Trends, a publication that was put out by the Government of Canada Tourist Office in Ottawa in 1972, and they have indicated a range of -- the increase in the tourism dollar across Canada for each particular Province and it ranged from 5 to 10%, so I continue:

A (Continued)

"Projecting this mean (7.5%) to 1975, it could be declared that the tourist revenue in Grande Cache could equal approximately \$172,000 assuming the resource information is valid, the application to the area is reasonable and the projections prove relatively true. A variance of $\pm 10\%$ could justify declaring that it may be possible to realize from \$154,800 to \$189,200 from tourist promotion in 1975."

So we have the two years expressed in a very general way but based upon assumptions that seem reasonable. Coming to the conclusion that if in 1974 if promotion is carried out to encourage people to travel to the Grande Cache region -- I have to talk about the region because the most important entity here is not the Town itself; the Town is the service component for the experiences that tourists would feel in this area, so in 1974 we could look at approximately \$160,000 income from the tourist trade; in 1975 we could look at approximately \$172,000.00 with the variances and the assumptions that we made.

Q Now --

A Are there any questions to that point?

Q Yes. In making that 3,000 figure are you including any allowance for people coming in for hunting?

A It is just a blanket figure, yes, this would include hunting, right.

Q And this is with no improvement in the facilities, but some promotion?

A That is right.

Q So at this point you would say that the promotion of tourism would be justified in the community?

A That is right, in order to justify the establishment of support facilities and the tourist trade area, if you will, in this particular region, yes.

"These applications of National and Provincial statistics can only be used as a guideline for the justification of the promotion of outdoor recreation - leisure - tourist involvement in Grande Cache.

More detailed analysis and more specific conclusions can only be possible after a detailed evaluation of tourist potential in this part of Northern Alberta." Not just C.D. 14, but this particular region of Alberta.

"As a result of this general overview and analysis, it can be assumed that the region between Hinton and Grande Prairie (specifically Grande Cache) could benefit considerably from tourist travel. There is no doubt, in this point in time, that Grande Cache could use the revenue generated by such a movement of people." This has already been declared by other members of the Chamber presented before me.

"The proposed highway, routed through the Town could contribute considerably to encouraging 'loop trips'

A (Continued)

"from Edmonton via Hinton to Grande Prairie or via Grande Prairie to Hinton and return."

Q Is this a significant factor in tourist promotion?

A I believe it is, yes.

Q The loop aspect?

A Yes, it would be the second major loop of its kind that comes into the Rocky Mountain wilderness area in Alberta; the other, of course, is the Banff Jasper loop.

Now, that concludes the section on the justification of why tourism.

Q That is assuming that in your initial projections it would come into this community and go back out?

A Yes, yes, using this community as a jump-off point for activities in the region. That has to be clarified each time, because it is a service center.

Q Yes, go ahead, please.

A Now how; how the tourist industry can be realized.

"It appears that in order to take advantage of the tourist traffic, recreation resort planning has to be done in three specific areas:

1. Conservation and land use

It is not enough today to simply preserve an outdoor area; unique natural features must be allowed to be appreciated. We must develop a 'co-operative' existence policy which is reflected in land use regulations and zoning."

A (Continued) That is the first aspect that must be researched in depth.

"2. Volume of visitations

Because of natural resource features, people want to experience the environment in every way possible. Proper planning will prevent premature deterioration of high attraction areas, protect micro environments, and broaden the economic base of a particular region."

Citing an example:

"Ontario and Quebec have considerable access to their forests and unique physical areas with fair to minimum deterioration."

The same thing applies to Oregon, Washington and California, particularly in Oregon and Washington to the forests that surround the Cascade Mountains, the extension of the Rocky Mountains in the States. Driving through there you have considerable access to those particular roadless areas but there is still fair to minimum deterioration, not excessive.

"3. Re-forestation and Reclamation

Because various mountains have large quantities of marketable products, they can be of benefit to our Provincial and National economy. It is possible to extract these materials, re-establish the ground cover and forest and use the areas for outdoor recreation experiences all at the same time.

A (Continued)

"Tourism as a second industry is possible in Grande Cache. The following steps will justify, extend a and determine the pattern for development.

1. -- "

And here we get into the mechanisms for realizing that particular potential.

"1. Creation of an advisory committee to establish in detail, the terms of reference for a market analysis and inventory of recreation-leisure resources in Grande Cache and district. Areas of concern should relate to:

- (a) Physical analysis by soil composition and topography.
- (b) Vegetation analysis by distribution and variety.
- (c) Drainage analysis by stream, creek, river, lake and swamp.
- (d) Wildlife analysis by distribution, variety, game trails and feeding areas.
- (e) Documentation of all unique features. "

Such as Kakwa Falls.

- "(f) Human analysis of movement out from Townsite and in the district.
- (g) An analysis of current Northern Alberta tourist trends. "

What is the existing pattern on the two highways to the north and to the south, one to the north and one to the south? What is the volume during the peak tourist points of the year? How can they be re-directed into the Grande

A (Continued) Cache area?

"(h) Analysis of micro-climates."

What experience is unique to visiting a ridge as compared to a valley?

"Conclusions re: Good, Moderate, Poor conditions.

Recommendations re: use of various areas for recreation activity.

Proposed Recreation Use. "

That is the total proposed recreation use, and I might say that we are talking about the tourist factor, but again as I clarified in the definition before, recreation use away from home is a tourist factor, as far as I am concerned.

"Priorities for future tourist development in Grande Cache and Region.

Two alternatives for realizing these recommendations." By building in the preparation of two alternatives, two possible plans you assure the fact that the study will not be shelved and become just another research document.

"2. Prepare a market analysis and inventory of outdoor recreation-leisure resources in Grande Cache and region.

(a) Boundaries of study area to be restricted by the number of unique nature features in the area.

3. Preparation of a comprehensive plan for development of tourist potential in the area. Consideration

A (Continued)

" should be given to:"

And by summarizing under these four headings we get all the information we need in order to document the plan.

"Proposed recreation-leisure use.

Access and egress.

Program development and auxiliary economic benefits and any other pertinent detail deemed necessary by the advisory committee."

And I am proposing this committee for a very major reason, Mr. Chairman. The fact that the local people will have an input into the control of the kinds of information that they will receive back it becomes meaningful and realistic for the preparation of a plan.

"4. Promotion of outdoor recreation-leisure amenities in Grande Cache and region. As the proposed road will probably not be completed for the next 2 - 3 years the Town will have to be considered as the major tourist destination point. The resulting pressures, if documented, will serve to adapt the Master Plan.

5. Implementation of support services

- (a) Updating the forestry trunk road
- (b) Start on the highway linking Grande Prairie, Grande Cache and Hinton.
- (c) Expansion of accommodations as determined by tourist trade -- in the Townsite.
- (d) Development of auxiliary tourist service businesses in the Town."

A (Continued) I present a proposed time sequence for each one of these particular steps.

Q This is how you would go about it?

A Yes, that is how I would go about it.

The third section relates to, requests and recommendations, for the consideration of the Commission.

"That a central bank of data related to outdoor recreation-leisure-tourism, resource research, planning and development be established by the Government in order to draw together and make more accessible information that exists in numerous Provincial and National Government Departments, Branches and Sections."

There is a great drawback to the preparation of these kinds of comprehensive plans and studies right now because of the fact that many Government Departments have subsections and branches concerned with recreation planning and development and it has been my experience in the studies that I have heard in this part of the country, Slave Lake and High Prairie particularly, that you have to continually run around and try and find the most up-to-date information. I think it would be meaningful, being as it seems that we are on the threshold of a very very concentrated interest on the part of the public in recreation, land use and development, and this is borne out by the reactions to the Environment

A (Continued) Conservation Board, Environment Conservation Authority proposals, that we need this kind of information, both for private business and for the preparation of local plans, such as the ones that we are proposing, and the preparation of further Government plans.

We have got to have this bank of information that we can draw on, and it just wastes too much time to have to run from the Department of Highways to the Department of Municipal Affairs, to the Parks Branch, back to the Department of Culture and Youth and Recreation, to just simply ask the same question. What information do we have on this particular area? And certainly they give you what they have but it would be a lot easier to run through a file. That is the first recommendation and request. The second:

"2. That a market analysis and inventory of outdoor recreation-leisure-tourism resources in the Grande Cache region be undertaken. "

It is imperative.

"3. That as a requirement in the terms of reference, " for this particular study or inventory:

"... a recreation planner be included on the study team." Engineers are engineers and they plan recreation areas, but they are not recreation planners. Landscape architects are also landscape architects and they are involved in the planning of parks, but they are not recreation planners.

A (Continued) Archeologists are in the same category, and I respect each one of their professions as such, but there is also another facet of being able to draw together all the aspects of a particular discipline and I feel that the addition of a recreation planner is a most necessary requirement of that particular inventory. Recommendation number 4:

"4. That funds be allocated by the Government, in any way possible for the purpose of promoting tourism in Grande Cache during the winter of 1973-74 and spring of 1974.

5. That the proposed highway be directed through the Town of Grande Cache in order to

(a) contribute to the establishment of a tourist trade in the Town and region. "

And the second reason:

"To prevent the fragmentation of commercial services so that they will be better able to serve the tourist traffic that will move through the region."

And the priorities are simply a re-arrangement of those particular recommendations in order of the way that they should occur.

Q If you were carrying it through?

A If I was carrying it through, and this is what I propose how it be carried through, and I will only go into detail on the first one, the creation of the advisory committee, and then

A (Continued) just give the title of the others. So the priorities for action, of action for tourist development in Grande Cache have eight particular aspects or steps:

"1. Create a tourist inventory advisory committee with single representation from the following agencies:

- Board of Administrators
- Native Area Development Committee
- Chamber of Commerce
- Peace River Regional Planning Commission
- Alberta Forest Service Parks Branch,
Department of Lands and Forests.
- Department of Highways, Planning Branch,

Chairman to be elected to be the contact with the research and planning team to be retained."

And then, of course, the preparation of the study document, the collection of data, the presentation of the document to the public for the valuation, the preparation of the comprehensive outdoor recreation-tourist development program, the promotion and advertising of the area over the periods that I indicated, the documentation of the impact of tourist trade, the modification of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and lastly the hiring of a tourist development officer to co-ordinate, update and modify as required. I haven't put a time limit on those because there is no way that you can determine how long each one will take to realize.

Q This is how you would do it?

A Yes.

Q That perhaps answers the question that was raised in one of the briefs when somebody said, nobody tells us how.

A But it indicates also the priorities in order.

Q Yes.

A And the conclusion:

" Latent outdoor recreation-tourist demand that would result from the provision of access (i.e. the proposed highway) and facilities is not predictable at this point. It may be that 1 - 3% of the population in the northern part of C.D. 14 use the existing Two Lakes road. When developed, the percentage could go as high as 15 - 25%. It is not a known factor at this time.

In this same manner the absolute effect of the highway passing through the Town or not is also unpredictable at this time. Further study is required considering all factors which resulted in the development of the alternatives with the emphasis upon tourist attraction. To this end, the priorities of action for tourist development are presented in this paper in Section IV."

So I simply refer you back to the priorities again. And that gentlemen is my paper.

Q Now, Mr. O'Donnell, am I correct in saying that if someone says to you, what is the value of tourism, that you have to create or determine what the market is?

A Pardon me, I was reading a note here, I am sorry.

Q Do you have to determine what the market is if somebody asks you to do a feasibility study, is that what you would do?

A Well, if somebody engages me in such a project we have to determine the viability of that particular project, primarily in economic terms, and that involves the preparation of a market analysis.

Q Which is one of the things that you have talked about?

A Yes, right.

Q And is this possible, can this be done?

A Oh yes, it is certainly possible, but it is not possible right now; it is a time-consuming undertaking.

Q But it is possible?

A Yes it is.

Q Did your note add something that you wanted to say?

A No, not from the note right now.

Q I take it, Mr. O'Donnell, that there could be some promotion of this area as a tourist center without the highway, without the new highway?

A There could be some, yes.

Q And there could be greater promotion with the new highway in the vicinity?

A Yes, it would provide a greater volume of people moving through, certainly.

Q And the difference between that and the highway coming through the Town is intangible at this point at any rate?

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- Patching Ex.

A You mean with the effect on the tourist development?

Q Yes?

A Yes it is. We talk of the tourist potential of the area we have to talk of the region and consider Grande Cache the jumping off point, and when you say, what effect does that road have on the tourist development in the region; if the road goes through the Town or outside the Town, I would say it would be very minimal, however the effect upon the Town would be quite drastic as it relates to the Town's ability to supply services for the people that are going to be using the area.

Q Is that a significant factor?

A When you consider the regional emphasis, no.
When you consider the Town emphasis, yes it is.

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, those are all the questions I have.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Martland, have you any questions, and I realize that this has been an unusual procedure reading a brief into the evidence.

MR. MARTLAND: I have no questions, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Patching, have you any questions of the witness?

MR. PATCHING EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q I was wondering, Mr. O'Donnell, can you bring us any examples of instances where a community has been developed for tourist by the creation of a road? What is the effect of upgrading a road on a community that might be comparable

Dennis O'Donnell - Patching Ex.

Q (Continued) to this, and I am wondering about say a road going into Lac La Ronge or in the Flin Flon or some other northern communities? Have you any examples?

A Well in order to answer the question properly I would just have to go into the literature. There are many studies that have been done related to the reasons why people go certain places to do leisure orientated things, but I can't provide an example right now, I would have to go into the literature, I am sorry.

Q All right. Could you give us any examples of where completing a connection and making possible a circle tour has increased traffic in an area?

A No I can't, I am sorry, not without researching it. You see that is a specific question and to make a generalization now and having it read into the record it wouldn't be any use because I could be wrong, partially right, or totally right, and I don't know whether I would be without researching the information.

Q Well without going into precise figures I was wondering about examples say of the David Thompson Highway, or any other connections of that sort?

A Well the only thing we can do is sort of go on assumptions and speculations, you know, you can almost ask the same effect on Waterton, what would be the effect if you ran a highway from Waterton through into the States or to the other side of the mountains there.. It would appear from

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A (Continued) my understanding of regional and urban planning principles that a town with two accesses is in a much better position to draw people for this particular involvement than a town with one access because in the second instance you are driving into a bottleneck and you have to turn around. I think Miette is another example where the junction becomes a turning off point, and a small service area to get into a particular region of unique tourist attraction. I don't know if I'm answering your question; I know I am not specifically but I just can't make that kind of declaration right now.

MR. PATCHING: I understand.

A I wish we had that kind of information. You see with a data bank -- here is another push --

MR. CRUMP: We know about that.

A You would be able to take the key words and say, okay, what are the components of the information that we want, we want a second access and egress from a particular town, we want one that has tourist potential and amenities and we want to know the effects of the additional road, before and after. Now, you know, plugging that into a library of information you may get some answers, but I would say that you would only get partial answers. That is another idea for a thesis as a matter of fact, and I might take it.

MR. PATCHING: Those are my main concerns,
thank you.

MR. CRUMP: Mr. Graham, have you any questions.

Dennis O'Donnell - Patching Ex.

MR. GRAHAM: No, I think he has answered some of my queries on tourism and apparently it is just all on assumptions at the present time; it has to be developed.

A Can you see my points for building it that way?

MR. GRAHAM: Oh yes, I agree with you.

MR. CRUMP: Well I have no particular comments, Mr. O'Donnell, but being quite familiar with Waterloo I think you will notice a change in the name coming about at the University.

A A change in the name of the University?

MR. CRUMP: In the paper last night.

A Oh is there, I didn't notice.

MR. CRUMP: But what I really wanted to comment upon, and what I regard is a very unjust slur, I want to state that I am an engineer by profession --

A And I wanted to state at the beginning that I had nothing to do with the C.N.

MR. CRUMP: And an archeologist by hobby, but I do not profess to have any knowledge of town planning; I just wanted to straighten that out.

Mr. Patching do you have any question?

MR. PATCHING EXAMINES THE WITNESS:

Q I was going to ask you, is there a difference between a recreation planner and an environmentalist?

A Yes, I think so.

Dennis O'Donnell - Patching Ex.

Q Could you give us very shortly the definitions of the two?

A I will be up here in about two weeks and I think you will be able to see the difference between the two.

MR. CRUMP: Thank you, Mr. O'Donnell, we appreciate you coming.

A Thank you.

MR. CRUMP: You may stand down.

(Witness Retires.)

MR. STEVENSON: There are no further witnesses, sir.

MR. CRUMP: Before we break up, ladies and gentlemen, I have a few comments that I would like to make. I think in my initial opening remarks I did not give any indication of the status of further hearings, and I would like to just advise that this concludes the hearing at Grande Cache at the present time.

We thought it important that we open here because the subject matter of this Commission is of vital and important interest to all the citizens of this community. We wanted to hear the community problems at first hand and with that thought in mind Commission Counsel queried those desiring to appear before this Commission as to whether they would rather do so here or in Edmonton, and all of those indicating and desiring to appear here have been heard, I believe, Mr. Counsel?

MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

MR. CRUMP:

Now it has been extremely valuable to the Commission to sit here. We propose opening further hearings in the Law Courts in Edmonton on Wednesday, June 20th at 9:30 a.m. The reason for holding what may be fairly extensive hearings in Edmonton is really two-fold, first there will be a good deal of very technical evidence presented by expert witnesses, and by other witnesses, and the access to Edmonton, for these very busy people from parts of Canada and from other parts of the world is much more convenient, airline service particularly. Secondly, here in Grande Cache we do not have the ability to produce a transcript each day. Now Mr. Adams and Mr. Barnes have been striving nobly here but we will not get this transcript until some time next week, whereas by holding the hearings in Edmonton we shall have the transcript the next morning and it is a very great advantage to the members of the Commission to have transcript to work from.

In Edmonton we propose hearing from various Government Departments and from McIntyre Porcupine Mines Limited; a further submission from the Union they have indicated, and then our own technical expert that the Commission is calling, so I want to impress upon you, ladies and gentlemen, if there is anything that has been omitted or that could be helpful to the Commission in its deliberations that occurs to you, adding to what has already been said here, but not reiterating any facts,

MR. CRUMP: (Continued) I wish you would get in touch with Commission Counsel and I am sure he could arrange a place in the hearings in Edmonton.

I only want to say further that on behalf of my brother Commissioners and the staff of the Commission we appreciate very much your attendance. The information that has been put before us has been extremely valuable and will be, of course, very greatly elaborated upon from other sources, but we do appreciate the interest and I now reiterate what I said, that the hearings of this Commission will reconvene in Edmonton at 9:30, Wednesday June 20th, in the Law Courts.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, these proceedings are adjourned.

(Hearings adjourned at 12:45 p.m.)

